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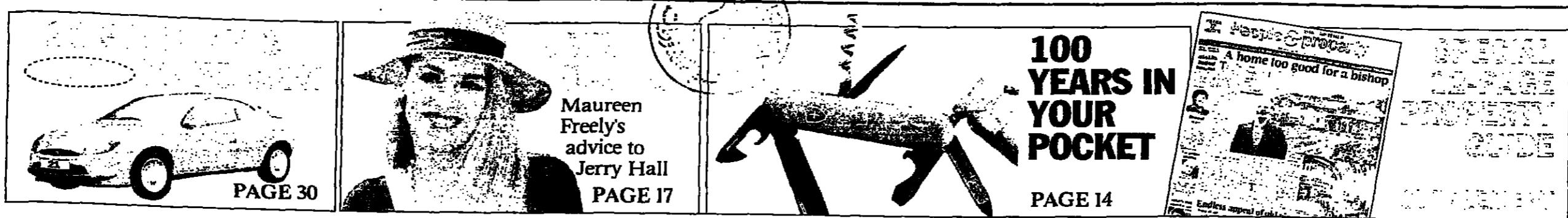
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THE TIMES

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35p



Right urged to switch support to Hague rather than Redwood in challenge to Clarke

Howard and Lilley pull out of race

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE and Kenneth Clarke were running neck-and-neck in the race to become Tory leader last night after the first ballot of the party's MPs left the Right in turmoil.

John Redwood defied all expectations by finishing third behind Mr Clarke and Mr Hague, beating Peter Lilley and Michael Howard. They both quickly withdrew from the next round, but dashed Mr Redwood's hopes by announcing that they would be backing Mr Hague as the only way of stopping the Shadow Chancellor. A Lilley supporter said: "Redwood has not got a chance."

After consulting supporters, Mr Howard said: "I have decided to withdraw and to support William Hague. I believe he is best placed to unite the party and to lead us to victory at the next election."

Mr Lilley thanked his supporters and said: "My aims have always been to reunite, to rebuild and renew the Conservative Party. I believe William Hague is now best placed to achieve those objectives and win the general election. Having worked closely with him in the past, I greatly admire his abilities and propose to give him my support."

Mr Hague now has the Tory crown in his sights at the age of 36, having come second in yesterday's poll with the support of 41 of the party's 164 MPs. Mr Clarke, boosted earlier in the day by massive grassroots backing, came top of the poll with 49. Mr

How Tory MPs voted	
Kenneth CLARKE	49
William HAGUE	48
John REDWOOD	27
Peter LILLEY	24
Michael HOWARD	23

Redwood received 27 votes, Mr Lilley 24 and Mr Howard, under attack by some on the Right for overstating his support during the campaign, 23.

Mr Redwood, Mr Howard and Mr Lilley quickly began negotiations to decide on the Right's next move. There had been an unofficial understanding between the three camps that the candidate who led the other two would go forward as the standard bearer of the Right, and Baroness Thatcher is understood to have indicated that she would back whoever turned out to be — but Mr Redwood was to be disappointed.

Mr Clarke needs to find only six more votes in the second round next Tuesday to be certain of going through into a final run-off, while Mr Hague needs another 14. Mr Redwood could get into the final ballot if he were to pick up just half of the votes cast for Mr Lilley and Mr Howard yesterday — but a Clarke-Hague race seems almost inevitable.

Most Tory MPs were stunned when they learned of Mr Redwood's success in Committee room 14 at the Commons, and the Howard and Lilley camps were crest-fallen. Some MPs even claimed that Clarke supporters had secretly voted for Mr Redwood to cause maximum confusion on the Right — a theory dismissed as crazy by the Clarke camp.

Supporters of Mr Hague were jubilant and believe that he can go forward to win. He said: "I think this is very good result which has exceeded expectations. It puts me in a very good position to campaign for the second ballot on a platform of uniting the party and giving the party a fresh start. I think it clearly puts me in a position to win. We will go into the second ballot with great confidence."

But Mr Clarke was reported to be equally confident — although some of his supporters were privately disappointed that his vote had not quite reached the fifties.

The Shadow Chancellor has now won polls in all sections of the party from peers, MPs to the constituency rank-and-file. In one survey, he secured the support of 269 constituency chairmen, compared with 178 for Mr Hague. The rest were nowhere.

Mr Clarke said support for him was much stronger than he had dared to expect when the campaign started. But, acknowledging that he needed rightwing votes for ultimate victory, he added: "I intend to seek to broaden my appeal further by setting out how

Continued on page 2, col 6

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Kenneth Clarke was elated after collecting the most votes, but is his support enough?

Message to the voters is clear: the parties go on

Political Sketch

Matthew Parris

very old thirteen," John Redwood, who does not age in human do, looked wired.

At 10.53 William Hague arrived, looking swete. Then came Michael Howard, looking soigne. Finally Kenneth Clarke bowed along, looking fat.

There had been (according to those within) a flurry of Tory MPs "showing" voting slips as they voted. No Tory completely trusts another.

"Even if I had voted for someone else I wouldn't tell you," said Geoffrey Clinton Brown, one of Kenneth Clarke's campaign team, delphically. Emerging from the room just before the ballot closed, one MP was asked how he had voted. "I'll tell you in 15 minutes," he replied. Sir

Continued on page 2, col 1



"Ignore it — it's only the first ballot."

Chips down for school junk food

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has launched an assault on junk food in the school canteens, announcing plans to set compulsory nutritional standards for the first time in 18 years.

Mr Blunkett complained that pupils were, on average, eating chips three times a week.

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Bankruptcy for Lloyd's debtor

A bookmaker from Cheshire has been declared bankrupt for refusing to pay his debts at Lloyd's of London. Brian Rowlands, who owns shops in the Liverpool area, is believed to be the first name to be made bankrupt by Lloyd's in its 300-year history. Lloyd's has been pursuing 50 names for more than £1 million each... Page 25

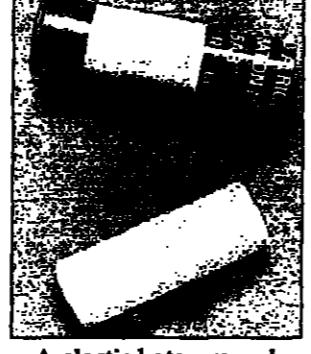
Cash claims likely over 'fast' plastic bullets

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Ministry of Defence is bracing itself for hefty compensation claims after an admission that thousands of plastic rounds fired by the Army and the police to quell riots in Northern Ireland had travelled too fast, increasing the chance of serious injury.

More than 100 people are known to have been injured by plastic rounds in the past three years and a senior Northern Ireland Office official agreed that many more may have been hurt who had failed to report the circumstances of their injuries.

Most of those known to have been injured will have been struck by rounds from a batch of 24,500 which were manufactured between November 1993 and June 1994. A third of them were found to be exceeding the muzzle velocity limit of 70 metres a second, or about 156mph, most by about



A plastic baton round

3 per cent. Last year, the Royal Ulster Constabulary fired 6,951 plastic rounds and the Army fired 1,387. The ministry agreed that most of them would have been from the 1993-94 batch. All plastic rounds have been replaced by a new batch which has been tested rigorously.

A senior defence official refused to say who had manufactured the plastic rounds "because this company has been threatened by terrorists in the past and we are keeping the name confidential". However, there are two companies in Britain, one in Derbyshire and the other in Wiltshire, which manufacture plastic rounds for anti-riot security forces. The defence official said the question of liability was being discussed.

The plastic LSAS rounds fired from an L101 baton gun are supposed to be "low-lethality civil disturbance weapons". The "bullets", which are shaped like a small heavy candle and are made of hard PVC, weigh 4.5oz and are 37in long.

Seventeen people, some of them children, have been killed by these rounds. The first to die from a plastic bullet

was Stephen Geddis, ten, in August 1993. He suffered a fractured skull after being hit in the head during street disturbances. In October 1993 Brian Stewart, 13, died after being hit by a plastic round when soldiers came under attack from stone-throwers.

Seamus Duffy, 15, was the last person to be killed by a plastic round, during a riot in Belfast in 1989.

Sean O'Neill, 42, whose son, Damien, 19, suffered a severe arm injury in Londonderry last July, said that he would be demanding greater compensation. His son, who he said was "totally innocent", still needs treatment for his arm after he was struck by a plastic bullet — an "indiscriminate" weapon — outside a take-away in the city centre in July last year.

Mr O'Neill said he was convinced that plastic bullets were being fired too fast last

summer. He said: "We made some calculations after the riots last summer and worked out that the bullets were travelling at about 168mph, which is much faster than the speed at which bullets are meant to be fired."

Republicans have consistently called for plastic bullets to be withdrawn because they claim that they are indiscriminate. The discovery of the defective plastic rounds came when development studies were being carried out. The manufacturer's tests had been approved as satisfactory.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said she regretted that plastic bullets had been faulty: "I regret what has happened because it will cause distrust and worry in the community. It is a procurement problem for the MoD. As soon as we heard what had happened, we made it public."

Gallon a day for 20 years made major a tea addict

By ADRIAN LEE

AN ARMY officer's judgment was affected when he became addicted to enormous quantities of tea, a court martial heard yesterday.

Major David Senior, 45, a teetotaller, was suffering the classic symptoms of caffeineism — an addiction to tea or coffee — when he was alleged to have mishandled ration funds. He drank a gallon, or even 25 cups of tea a day. His condition emerged when he was sent home from a posting in Belize, Central America, and referred to a

psychiatrist, the hearing in Aldershot, Hampshire, was told. His addiction was confirmed by a second expert.

The major — decorated for his undercover work in Northern Ireland — had consumed enormous quantities of tea for all his adult life, said Charles Gabb, defending.

A married man with two children, the major was not dishonest, said Mr Gabb. He may have made a genuine mistake with paperwork because of his medical condition.

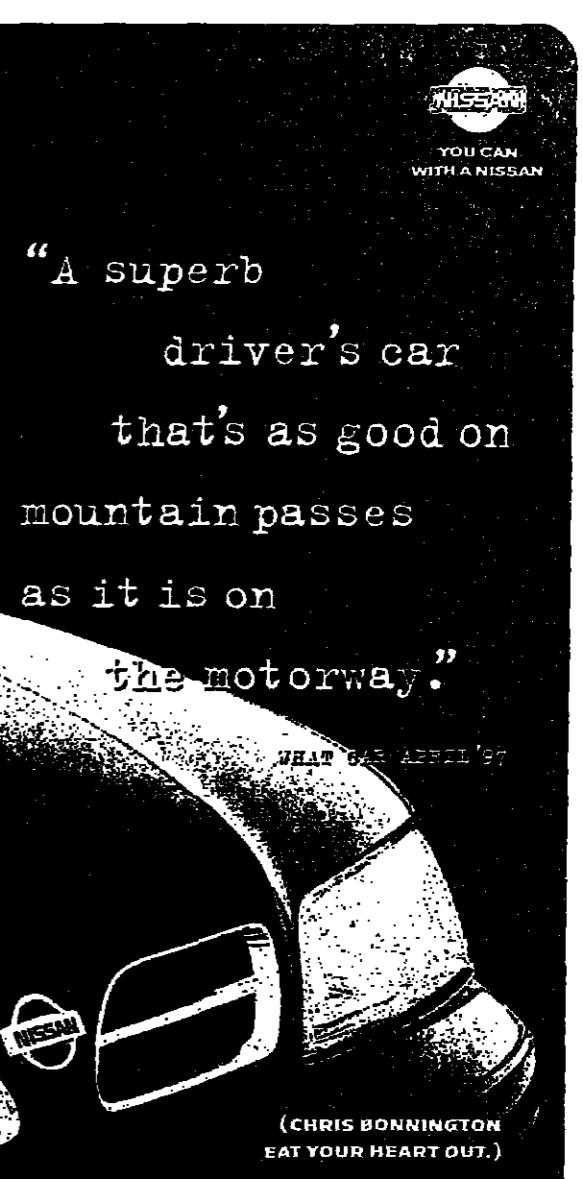
It was originally alleged that Major Senior took £19,000 from funds while

serving in Belize between December 1993 and November 1994. But Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Lewis, for the prosecution, dropped eight theft charges after accepting that the major had not taken the money for himself. The officer, who was in charge of 25 Flight Army Air Corps, now faces three charges of false accounting and one of negligently handling funds. The major denies the revised charges.

Medical books state that the symptoms of caffeineism can include confusion, restlessness, nervousness, insomnia, sweating and palpitations.

In extreme cases sufferers experience panic attacks. In one recorded instance a soldier serving in the Indian Army was believed to have been blinded by drinking too much tea. Experts believe caffeineism is similar to alcoholism in that sufferers are the last to realise they have a problem.

In his book, *Coffee and Health*, Gerard Debry defines "high levels of caffeine intake" as ten cups of tea or coffee a day. Coffee contains twice as much caffeine as tea. A breakfast cup of tea contains about 25mg of caffeine. The hearing continues.



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MPs must think carefully about what they want for the party

Now is the time for Tory MPs to be serious. The champagne and canapés phase of the leadership contest is over. The first round was tantalisingly inconclusive. Kenneth Clarke did not do well enough to establish a commanding position. William Hague was a strong second and now looks well placed; John Redwood surprised everyone in coming third, even if only four votes separated him from Peter Lilley and Michael Howard.

It was the messiest possible result for the Right, given that Mr

Redwood looked the least likely to beat either Mr Clarke or Mr Hague. Mr Clarke needs six more votes to be certain of being in the final round; Mr Hague needs 14 more votes, while Redwood needs to double his vote. But it is a gross oversimplification just to aggregate the votes of the three rightwingers, since the motives and loyalties of Tory MPs cannot be so neatly categorised.

After the damaging introspection of the past few weeks, Tory MPs should pause to think about where they want their party to go over the next few years. Do they

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

want to be trapped in an endless ideological battle and search for purity on Europe? Do they remember what happened to Labour during the 1980s? When the campaign started, Mr Clarke reminded his colleagues of the Denis Healey versus Michael Foot contest in 1980, and of the risk of the Tories taking the Foot option. Implicit in that was the warning against the Tories of behaving as self-destructively as

Labour did in 1980, and Mr Clarke might indeed be the Healey of the late 1990s. The choice is more complicated than that, of course, is his appeal now.

Tory MPs also need to consider the views of their own supporters and of the public. The consultation process carried out by the National Union is very far from being a one member, one vote ballot. It is a survey of the party élite, whether peers, members of the European Parliament, and parliamentary constituency, area or Euro-constituency chairmen.

However, the results convey a uniform and overwhelming picture. There was a large majority in each group for Mr Clarke, with Mr Hague a strong second and the rest nowhere. The MEPs were unanimously for Mr Clarke, rather as the peers were for Lord Home in 1963.

Moreover, each of the national polls has put Mr Clarke well in the lead both among the public as a whole and among Tory supporters. For the Tories to choose anyone but Mr Clarke or Mr Hague would be to ignore the clear views of both the public and

the party in the country, undermining the legitimacy of the new leader.

The other main question is which candidate would have the authority to challenge Tony Blair and to have a broad national appeal. Mr Redwood has so far only shown an ability to appeal to the Tory Right. Mr Hague has greater potential but is still only partly formed as a politician.

Contrary to the jibes from the right, Mr Hague does have distinctive and thought-out views. It is rather that he is untested politically. Mr Clarke is the obvi-

ous known figure. In a sense, he is the John Smith candidate, the battler with proven qualities who will take the fight to Labour.

Whoever becomes leader will inherit a bruised and divided party whose problems are likely to become worse in the short term.

The main winner from the Tory contest is Mr Blair. He knows that

the identity of the Tory leader will be less important in determining the result of the next election than whether Labour succeeds or fails in Government.

PETER RIDDELL

Party activists back Clarke and spurn the Eurosceptics

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE swept the board in all five sections of the ballot of senior party activists, surprising even his own supporters by the margin of his victory. William Hague was once seen as the first choice of the grassroots members.

The former Chancellor gained more than 50 per cent in each section. He secured 608 votes, with Mr Hague second on 278. Michael Howard trailed badly in fifth place with only 26 — less than 3 per cent of the vote cast. Peter Lilley was third with 84 and John Redwood fourth with 49.

But it was the scale of Mr Clarke's victory in the ballot of the constituency chairmen which was the most significant. The former Chancellor romped home with 369 votes, with Mr Hague in second place with 178 in the survey of the associations of England and Wales. The other three were way behind. Mr Redwood was third with 25 votes, Mr Lilley polled 20, and Mr Howard scored only ten.

The result was similar in Scotland where the Conservatives lost all their parliamentary

GRASS ROOTS

seats in the general election and where the party's response to the new government's devolution plans will be critical to its recovery. Mr Clarke won the backing of 53 association chairmen, Mr Hague ten, and Mr Lilley two.

There was embarrassment for Mr Howard and Mr Redwood who failed to secure a single vote.

The telephone poll was organised by the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, which runs the voluntary wing of the party. Each chairman consulted the local executive committee. Some had ballistic full membership.

The result with the Right

rejected, flatly contradicted the assertion that the Tory grassroots were Eurosceptic and crying out for a new Margaret Thatcher.

Both Mr Clarke and Mr Hague claimed that their runaway lead was evidence that only they could restore the Tories' popularity and unite the party. "It is now a two-horse race," said Mr Hague, speaking yesterday, well before Mr Howard and Mr

Redwood had even been born.

The poll of the National Union executive and chairmen of the Euro-constituencies saw Mr Clarke ahead with 92 votes, Mr Hague 45, Mr Lilley 25, Mr Redwood 11 and Mr Howard six.

Robin Hodgson, the chairman of the National Union, said: "It would be a shame if MPs didn't take account of these figures. These are the views of the people who work for the party on the doorstep, day in and day out," he said.

1922 Committee poll results

	Peers	MEPs	Constituency chairmen	Scottish chairmen	Euro-constituency chairmen	Total
Kenneth CLARKE	177	17	269	53	92	608
William HAGUE	45	0	178	10	45	278
Michael HOWARD	18	0	10	0	6	26
Peter LILLEY	37	0	20	2	25	84
John REDWOOD	13	0	25	0	11	49
Turnout	61.3%	100%	67.2%	63.3%	63.6%	

Parties will go on

Continued from page 1 Edward Heath sailed up the corridor just in time. "I was the first Leader to come through by vote," he said. "Of course there was none of this nonsense we've had for the last six weeks. We didn't take anyone out for drinks or lunch."

Nobody was rude enough to suggest a reason why Sir Edward's campaign managers might have steered him away from this tactic. If the aim were to win a chap over, taking him out for a drink or lunch might backfire for Sir Edward.

The door to Committee Room 13, next door, was shut

fast throughout the day. Many Tories (including Sir Archier) chose this and, wishing to cast their vote there, battled unsuccessfully with the lock. One left-winger suggested that the symbolically blocked option was a metaphor for the whole occasion. Chris Patten being within.

Others wondered whether Michael Portillo might be the hostage they could not reach, separated from his natural support by a heavy oak.

I prefer a different metaphor. A regional TV crew had assembled outside the wrong committee room altogether, and waited patiently there. In the nick of time they discovered that the meeting taking place inside was of no interest. They joined the rest of us rather late, relieved that they had now reached a place where something of earth-shattering importance was happening. Some of us were far from sure. Perhaps we were all outside the wrong door.

But whether or not there will ultimately be a Party, Mr Luff is right: in the immediate future there will be parties.

HOW THEY VOTED

SUPPORTERS of Kenneth Clarke were the most reluctant to break cover yesterday. The following is a list of those who revealed their choice.

Kenneth Clarke

Sir Norman Fowler, Quenten Davies, Michael Jack, Michael Mates, Sir George Young, John Gummer, John MacGregor, Tom King, Shaun Woodward, Andrew Rowe, Sir Peter Emery, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Keith Simpson, Ian Taylor, Peter Temple-Morris, Damian Green, David Curry, Sir John Stanley, John Butterfield, Virginia Bottomley, Nicholas Soames, Sir Ray Whitney, Sir Peter Lloyd, Tony Baldry, Stephen Dorell, Douglas Hogg, Michael Heseltine, Sir Edward Heath, Sir David Madel, Bob Waller, Kenneth Clarke, Robert Jackson, Alastair Goodlad, Richard Orme, John Greenway, Peter Luff, Sir Paul Bresford, Ann McIntosh, Sir Alan Haselhurst.

Number of unknown voters: 6

William Hague

James Clappison, Alan Duncan, Roger Gale, Sir Peter Tapsell, David Heathcoat-Amory, Nigel Evans, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Cheryl Gillan, Eleanor

Number of unknown voters: 5

Peter Lilley

Ann Widdecombe, Bernard Jenkin, John Whittingdale.

Number of unknown voters: 4

John Redwood

Iain Duncan Smith, Julian Brazier, Andrew Robathan, Marion Roe, Teresa Gorman, Ann Winterton, Howard Flight, Joanne Lewis, Charles Walker, Michael Fabricant, Ian Tizard, Michael Cash, John Wilkinson, Oliver Lewin, David Wilshire, Sir Teddy Taylor, Lawrence Robertson, Nicholas Winterton, John Redwood, John Hayes, Owen Paterson, Christopher Gitt.

Number of unknown voters: 1

Unknown

John Major, Alan Clark, Gary Streeter, Eric Pickles, Sir Synder Chapman, Peter Brooke, Tim Boswell, Peter Viggers, Edward Gamier, Peter Atkinson, Theresa May, Caroline Spelman, John Horam, Crispin Blunt, Michael Fallon, Anthony New.

Number of unknown voters: 4

Michael Howard

Sir Michael Spicer, David Faber, David Davis, James Cran, Simon Burns, Graham Brady, Andrew Lansley, John M. Taylor, Edward Leigh, David Lidington, Patrick Nicholls, Sir Archie Hamilton, Sir Richard Body, Francis Maude, Tim Collins, Liam Fox, Desmond Swayne, David Maclean, Christopher Chope, Michael Howard, Oliver Heald, Christopher Fraser.

Number of unknown voters: 1

Unknown

John Major, Alan Clark, Gary Streeter, Eric Pickles, Sir Synder Chapman, Peter Brooke, Tim Boswell, Peter Viggers, Edward Gamier, Peter Atkinson, Theresa May, Caroline Spelman, John Horam, Crispin Blunt, Michael Fallon, Anthony New.

Number of unknown voters: 1

MPs' vote

Continued from page 1
I intend to lead this party on an inclusive basis."

Mr Redwood immediately appealed to Mr Lilley and Mr Howard to pull out and swing behind him, saying that their supporters would find a "natural home" with him.

He added: "If Michael and Peter would like jobs in the Shadow Cabinet that I wish to form, yes, of course they can have jobs. I want to develop a common platform. I want to talk to them about what we need to put forward so that we can win this leadership for the right issues and the right causes."

Some of Mr Lilley's supporters were downcast. John Whittingdale said: "I have to say in some ways it is the worst result possible."

But John Townsend, the chairman of the rightwing 92 Group and Redwood's supplier, said: "I'm delighted. The three rightwing candidates have got 74 votes. It's clear that Ken Clarke — who would not be able to unite the party because of his extreme views on Europe — can't win now."

Mr Redwood had harm-

ous known figure. In a sense, he is the John Smith candidate, the battler with proven qualities who will take the fight to Labour.

Whoever becomes leader will inherit a bruised and divided party whose problems are likely to become worse in the short term.

The main winner from the

Tory contest is Mr Blair. He knows that

the identity of the Tory leader will be less important in determining the result of the next election than whether Labour succeeds or fails in Government.

PETER RIDDELL



Gillian Shephard lobbying Anthony Steen on behalf of Peter Lilley yesterday

Experience tells as Redwood springs surprise on his party

BY ANDREW PIERCE

CHALLENGER
MERED

HOME the same message at a series of press conferences. Press coverage dipped. But the message was aimed at MPs and constituency activists not the media.

The day after the 92 Group meeting Mr Redwood picked up a clutch of new supporters. His campaign team declined to name the converts.

It was the reticence which prompted speculation that Redwood's team was in trouble. It was deliberate strategy. Despite the slow start Mr Redwood had earned plaudits from new members, and Eurosceptics, for backing the single currency revolt in the general election which was financed by Paul Sykes, the Yorkshire millionaire.

But the factor which most MPs overlooked was that Mr Redwood was the only candidate to have fought in a leadership campaign. "It was an invaluable experience. And



Redwood: won plaudits for smooth campaign

it showed," said a member of the Redwood team.

Ten students dressed as Mexicans, a Spanish guitar quartet and a donkey called Michael Portillo yesterday disrupted television news broadcasts of the Tory leadership election. They positioned themselves in front of the cameras on Abingdon Green outside Parliament as Tory MPs were interviewed about the result of the first ballot.

They waved placards backing Michael Portillo, the former Tory MP who was ousted at the general election, and sang Spanish songs. The placards said: "Portillo 4 Presidente" and "We love Miguel."

Early rumours they were young Conservatives from Streatham were scuttled when it emerged that they worked for a satellite and cable comedy television channel.

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Cookson gift saves Hatton Gallery

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE Hatton Gallery, at Newcastle University, has been saved from closure by a £250,000 donation from the novelist Dame Catherine Cookson.

Dame Catherine, a Tynesider, has promised £50,000 for each of the next five years, and presented university officials with the first instalment yesterday. The gallery, which opened in 1926, houses one of the most extensive university collections in the country, including work by the German-born Dadaist Kurt Schwitters. A proposal last month that it was to close to save the university £40,000 provoked dismay from art lovers in the region and anger from academics at the university's department of fine art.

Despite their vigorous pro-

test campaign, the university's council confirmed the closure decision at a private meeting on Monday night, although it did announce that it would seek outside help. Officials later disclosed that £100,000 a year was needed to keep the gallery open.

Last night Professor Richard Bailey, the university's pro-Vice Chancellor, said that Dame Catherine, who is 90, had made "an enormously generous gesture, and we are extremely grateful to her. Now with her help we can revitalise the gallery and make it even more central to the arts on Tyneside and in the region."

"It is now a challenge to the many supporters of the Hatton Gallery to match her generosity, but we are delighted with her splendid gift. The



Dame Catherine Cookson is to donate £250,000 to the gallery at Newcastle University

Hatton has been given a second chance and if not actually saved as yet it is well on its way to a rebirth. We need about £100,000 a year and we are now getting together a business plan. Dame Catherine contacted us after reports of our difficulties reached her. "The university is to contact various organisations for funds.

In the 1980s, Dame Cather-

ine gave the gallery £25,000 for refurbishment. She has also set up a foundation for the benefit of the university which will eventually provide a £1 million fund. Four years ago, Dame Catherine gave £100,000 to help set up a liver unit at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Professor Bailey said: "She's always been generous to the university; part of our medical

school is named after her. She's been very helpful with funding medical research. She helped us in the library and given a great deal of support to students."

Bill Varley, a fine arts lecturer who had campaigned against the closure, was "overjoyed" at the news. He said: "My feelings are of sheer ecstasy. It is quite simply a phenomenal gesture."

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA gunmen ambush Londonderry soldiers

Gunmen opened fire on two soldiers travelling in an unmarked car on the outskirts of Londonderry just before midday yesterday. A white Ford Transit van pulled out in front of the soldiers as they drove from the city towards the border with the Irish Republic. As the soldiers halted, the doors of the van swung open and three terrorists opened fire. The Army said the car was not hit and denied a claim by the IRA that it had injured one of the soldiers.

The shooting was the second IRA attack since the terrorists ended their unofficial ceasefire on May 31, a tactic aimed at maximising Sinn Fein's vote in the general and local elections in Northern Ireland.

Blair tough on borders

Tony Blair will tell President Chirac in Paris today that retaining control of British borders is the minimum he will demand for negotiating a deal at the Amsterdam summit. He is also pressing for new wording in the employment chapter to boost job flexibility and an assurance against a move towards a common European defence policy. The Prime Minister will speak to as many European leaders as possible before the summit.

Animal transport rule

Road hauliers and traders who flout new European rules on transporting farm animals will be banned from carrying livestock, the Government said. The regulations, which will take effect on July 1, set uniform limits throughout the European Union on the length of time animals can be transported without being rested, fed and watered. The rules should have come into force on January 1, but were delayed by the last Government.

Sentence is halved

A nursery nurse jailed for punching and nearly blinding a retired major-general had her sentence halved to six months in the Court of Appeal. Debbie Blaize, 21, had her appeal for a retrial refused but was told by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, that she was entitled to assurance that her defence, in which she claimed she was sexually abused by Major-General Richard Gerard-Wright, had not contributed to the length of her sentence.

Teenage nanny cleared

A teenage nanny accused of assaulting a boy of 2 was cleared at Northampton Crown Court. Stacey Spence, 19, of Thrapston, Northamptonshire, had been charged with actual bodily harm after the boy's parents found a bruise across his bottom. A defence witness said the mark could have been caused by falling on a toy. Miss Spence, who looked after the boy and his sister, 5, for five months, said she had only ever given the boy "a light tap".

'Private' NHS hospitals

Work will start later this year on the first two of a series of hospitals to be built for the National Health Service with private money. The Government is to announce a list of several other priority projects, chosen from among 35 already under negotiation. Work on them should start within 18 months. The plan, announced yesterday by Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, was aimed at proving that the Private Finance Initiative could work.

Carers win £400,000

A group of women workers who look after the elderly have won a £400,000 out-of-court settlement in an equal-pay fight against their council employers. The 28 women, all sheltered housing wardens with Durham City Council, will also benefit from changes in their employment conditions which equate to a 35 per cent pay increase. But yesterday, as details of their victory were announced, council chiefs said the deal could provoke job losses.

Cenotaph attacker

A schizophrenic man who slashed a clergyman across the face during a Remembrance Day service was ordered to be detained indefinitely in a psychiatric hospital. Donald MacLeod, 54, was in full battle dress when he attacked the Rev John MacPherson at the cenotaph in Scourie, Sutherland. Mr MacPherson needed 16 stitches. The High Court in Edinburgh was told that MacLeod believed the minister had offended a friend.

Girl bullies detained

Two teenage girl bullies were sent to a detention centre for three months yesterday for their part in a savage attack on a schoolmate who later killed herself. Passing sentence at Stornoway Sheriff Court on Michelle McBratney, 17, and Lee Ann Murray, 16, Sheriff Ian Cameron told the sobbing pair they had "evil" ensured that Katherine Jane Morrison, 16, could not safely walk the streets of Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

Hunt lobby stages rally

Supporters of fox hunting are hoping to attract up to 100,000 people to a rally in London next month to protest against possible moves by the Government to ban their sport. The British Field Sports Society, which is organising the event in Hyde Park, says that 500 coaches and seven trains have already been hired by hunts and other countryside groups to bring in supporters on July 10. A series of cross-country marches is also planned.

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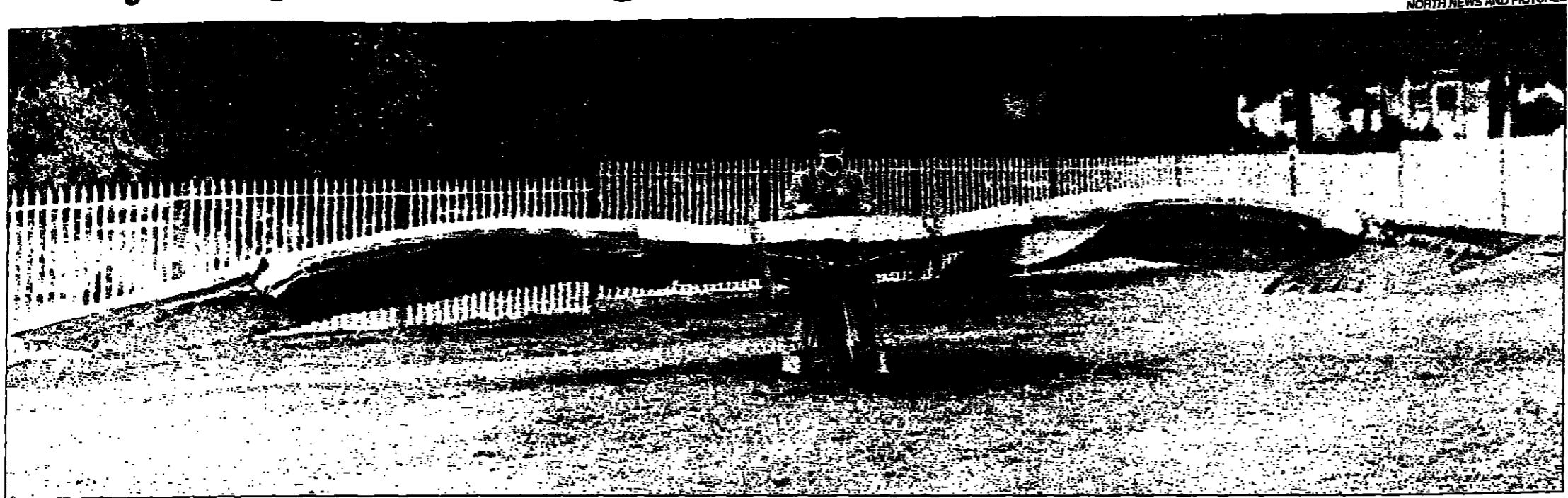


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Mystery of the magnificent man and his flying machine



NORTH NEWS AND PICTURES

THIS curious photograph of what looks like a winged bicycle has baffled the company that built it. It is known that it was taken on the Town Moor, Newcastle upon Tyne, in 1914, but nobody at the Vickers engineering firm knows what the contraption was, why it was built or the identity of the pilot with the handlebar moustache.

The photograph was discovered in the archives during research for the company's 150th anniversary this year. Peter McKenzie, the Vickers archivist, said: "We have labelled the picture 'The Bird Man', but no one has any idea of its significance."

Most of the photographs in the archives are of historic tanks and aircraft. There is also one of a visit to Tyneside by Ulysses S. Grant in 1877, when he was President of the United States.

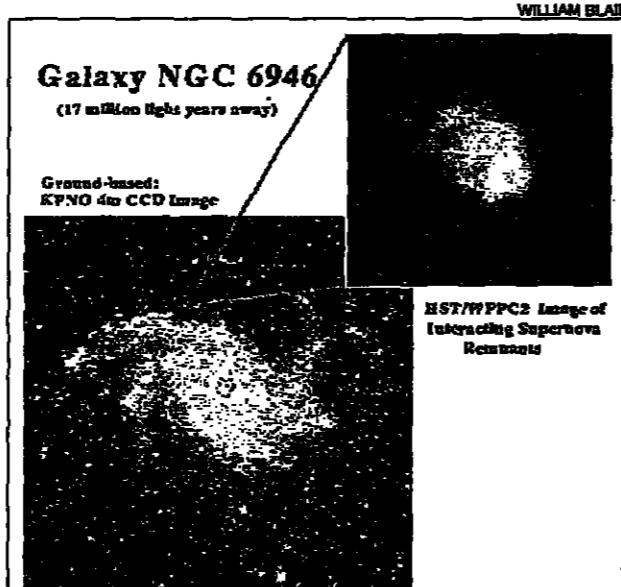
Hubble tracks train wreck in deep space

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Hubble space telescope has photographed the debris of two exploding stars colliding in a galaxy 17 million light years away. It is the first time such a collision between supernovas has been seen.

The Hubble images also solve a mystery that has puzzled astronomers since a very bright object was spotted, using Earth-based instruments, in a galaxy called NGC 6946. The object appeared to be a young supernova, a star much more massive than the Sun, destroying itself in a huge explosion. But analysis showed that it contained the wrong mixture of elements and was expanding too slowly.

The greater resolution of the Hubble's wide field and planetary camera solved the problem. It showed that the bright object was in fact the result of material hurled from two supernovas colliding "like a



Twin blasts from the past: Hubble has revealed the explosion to be not one supernova, but two colliding

possibility of two happening close enough for the debris to collide was predictable, but had never been observed.

"It's the first time we have identified one of these interactions right when the shells are in the process of slamming into each other," Dr Blair said. "The reason why this object is so bright is that we caught it at a very specific time in its evolution. And Hubble's reso-

lution is what allowed us to see it."

The galaxy in which the event has been observed is spiral-shaped, like the Milky Way, but only about half as large. The frequency of supernovas indicates that not only are stars being formed there very rapidly, but that many of them are massive, otherwise they would not form supernovas.

The Sunday fee at Canterbury

Cathedral will be introduced on

Canterbury Cathedral to charge on Sundays

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CANTERBURY Cathedral, the mother church of the worldwide Anglican communion, is to become the first cathedral in Britain to charge for entry on Sundays.

Officials at Canterbury, the centre of recent celebrations marking the 1,400th anniversary of St Augustine's arrival on the shores of England, say that the charge is required for safety reasons, to assist crowd control.

St Paul's Cathedral and Ely Cathedral also charge for entry during the week. But admission to Ely on Sundays is free, while most of St Paul's is roped off to all visitors except worshippers on Sundays.

At Westminster Abbey, a £4 admission charge is to be introduced next year to aid crowd control, but the charges will not apply on Sundays; the abbey is not open to tourists as relics of the martyred saint Thomas à Becket.

Interest is such that the Dean and Chapter fear that the numbers visiting are reaching dangerously high levels. David Earlam, cathedral spokesman, said: "There are some times, particularly on the pulpit and the steps, when the pressure of numbers does give cause for concern. It has led to disruptive and occasionally dangerous over-crowding in the cathedral."

Referring to the 1989 foot-

ball stadium disaster, he said: "We all have the spectre of Hillsborough in the back of our minds."

"We are not extending the charges for extra revenue. We are doing it for safety reasons and so that people can appreciate the cathedral more."

Charges for weekday and Saturday visitors were introduced two years ago, but it soon became apparent that Sunday was the second busiest day of the week, with up to 7,000 people visiting during the summer months. The £2 charge will be made between 11.30am and 2pm on Sundays, as well as weekdays, until October.

Mr Earlam said: "This gives time after the morning service and before evensong for people to have a look around. Genuine worshippers, or people wanting to say a quiet prayer will of course be admitted without charge."

"Our staff are trained to

distinguish those people from tourists."

Free admission remains for those attending services, residents with precinct passes who live within four miles of the cathedral, workers within the city of Canterbury and Church of England members from the Canterbury diocese.

As at Canterbury on Sundays, the charges at Westminster Abbey are to be introduced as part of a wider scheme to restore calm. The abbey, unlike many churches and cathedrals, is flush with funds.

Mr Earlam said: "It can be very busy in the cathedral on Sundays. Sometimes we do have problems with over-crowding and noise. It can make it difficult for people to be contemplative. It will generate a lot of income but that is not why we are doing it on Sundays, although it was the reason we introduced charges originally."

90% of all trapped animals aren't trapped for their fur

Shouldn't we care about their welfare too?

Environment Control

All over the world, animal populations need to be controlled in order to protect agricultural land, flora and fauna, and to prevent the transmission of diseases such as rabies, etc. Trapping is frequently the most effective method of control and goes on in virtually every country. Here in Europe, over 5 million animals are trapped each year.

International Standards

Surprisingly, no international standards exist to evaluate whether the traps used here in Europe, or anywhere else in the world, are in fact humane.

Now for the first time, the European Union has the opportunity to approve an International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards.

The Draft Agreement

Less than 10% of all trapped animals are actually taken for fur. Recognising this fact, the Agreement makes no distinction between

reasons why animals are trapped - it seeks to ensure that humane trapping standards will apply in all trapping situations. Under the Agreement, all traps for a total of 19 species (12 of which are trapped in the EU) will be assessed scientifically so that inhumane traps can be identified and replaced within a tight time frame.

Breakthrough for Animal Welfare

On 19/20 June, EU Environment Ministers from the 15 Member States will meet to consider this draft International Agreement. The Agreement is a world first and presents a long-awaited opportunity for EU governments to take action to improve trapping on a worldwide basis.

Its positive impact on animal welfare will be felt not only in third countries, but also here in the EU.

We urge the UK Government to approve this Agreement



Fur Education Council

International Fur Trade Federation

10/10/97

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JULY 1997

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

Toddler drank from beaker left by addict mother

Baby Daniel and the fatal dose of heroin substitute

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, STEPHEN FARRELL AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE short and sad life story of a child killed by a combination of neglect and curiosity in his drug-addict mother's flat was told to a coroner's court yesterday.

Only police and doctors were there to hear how 15-month-old Daniel Fitzpatrick died after drinking the heroin substitute methadone on February 24 last year. His mother, Sinead Fitzpatrick, 16, an Irish stable girl who came to London four years ago after becoming bored with life in Co Meath, ignored a summons and pleas from friends to attend St Pancras Coroner's Court in north London.

Her boyfriend, Ricky Williamson, a heroin abuser who introduced her to the drug, had a "bad leg", and she would not go without him.

The coroner, Stephen Chan, said he was not going to issue a warrant for her arrest because she had suffered enough. Although Daniel's death was at least partly

caused by her "ineptitude, fatuousness and obtuseness", he said she was "a much troubled lady who has enough problems as it is. No doubt she too has suffered and will have to live with these tragic consequences for the rest of her life."

He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

In a statement read to the inquest, Miss Fitzpatrick, of Tufnell Park, north London, said she had poured herself a 40ml dose of methadone after feeling ill, and drank most of it. She said she left the remaining 4ml half a teaspoonful in a measuring container on a table.

Later, she realised that her son had drunk it when she caught him licking the green liquid off his fingers: "I saw Danny with the beaker in his hand which he had picked up from the coffee table."

The drug had been prescribed to her. She had recently learnt she was pregnant again and it was to help her to

kick her heroin addiction to protect the unborn child.

Daniel, a lively, intelligent and active boy who, despite being born with a club foot, was beginning to learn to kick a ball, licked his fingers and fell asleep with a smile on his face.

"I wasn't unduly worried as Danny did not show any change in his attitude," she said. Fearing that social workers would take her son and, eventually, her unborn child away from her, she had decided not to call an ambulance.

Daniel, who had been born after a previous relationship, cuddled up to Mr Williamson.

Hours passed.

When Mr Williamson awoke, he saw Daniel was in distress, but he had taken "so much gear" that his memory was hazy, he later told police.

In his statement, Mr Williamson, an unemployed labourer from Renfrewshire, described their panic. "We were getting paranoid about

his behaviour. Daniel was breathing deeply and there were weird noises coming from him, like snoring. He would sometimes open his eyes and he wasn't focusing."

"What made us most concerned was the colour of his lips. They were purple. Also, any time we picked him up there was no movement. He was like a doll. If I held up his head it would fall backwards or forwards."

But when ambulance paramedics were finally called — eight hours after the dose had been taken — Mr Williamson refused to go with them, saying he hated hospitals, and sat smoking a cigarette as they rushed Daniel away.

Miss Fitzpatrick, distraught, returned to Ireland to have her second child, a daughter, who has been fostered to her sister.

Dr Chan said there was no direct evidence of neglect or that the delay had caused Daniel's death. The child had



Daniel's childminder, Freddie Habibus, with a picture of him. Despite having a club foot, he had begun to kick a ball

not been on the at-risk register and the Crown Prosecution Service was to take no action.

Dr Chan said of Miss Fitzpatrick's actions: "Whether it is through sheer ineptitude, fatuousness, obtuseness or foolishness, it did not occur to her to consult her doctor or hospital until it was too late.

Her foolishness on this one occasion did not amount to neglect in the legal sense of the word, although the consequences were disastrous nonetheless."

Freddy Patel, a consultant pathologist at Guy's Hospital, said that a post-mortem examination showed Daniel was

clearly a well-nourished and well-cared-for baby. The level of methadone in his body was roughly consistent with the mother's account. He gave the cause of death as methadone toxicity.

After the inquest, Daniel's childminder, Freddie Habibus, welcomed the verdict.

saying Daniel's mother had suffered enough and had failed to attend the inquest through terror of going to prison.

"She would have never done anything to hurt him, but she was a drug addict and you can never tell how they are going to behave," she said.

New painkiller speeds recovery from surgery

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A POWERFUL new painkiller that leaves patients wide awake within minutes of surgery is expected to increase the efficiency of operating theatres and lead to fewer operations being cancelled at short notice.

The drug, remifentanil, will enable theatres to deal with patients at a faster rate and reduce the need for long recovery in intensive care. It has completed its clinical trials and already been used successfully on more than 3,000 patients.

Emergency use of intensive care beds is often the reason for surgery cancellations. A remifentanil trial at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, found that 80 per cent of those who were anaesthetised with it did not need intensive care and the number of planned operations that had to be cancelled fell from three a week to one a month.

Dr Gilbert Park, a consultant anaesthetist at Addenbrooke's, said: "This represents a major change in the way we carry out operations. This is a benefit for the patient, for the staff and for the taxpayer."

The drug replaces other injected painkillers, such as morphine, used by anaesthetists in preparing patients for operations. Traditional painkillers numb the normal reflexes, causing breathing difficulties, so patients need to be on a ventilator until the effects wear off.

Until now, surgeons have preferred to rely on a blend predominantly of sedatives and painkillers to minimise the danger of adverse effects during recovery. Even so it

takes four hours for the effects of morphine-type drugs to reduce by a half, so patients need to be on a ventilator in an intensive-care unit overnight so that their breathing can be monitored.

The effects of the new drug wear off within five minutes of its withdrawal. This ends the danger of complications and the need for intensive care. Because it successfully kills the pain of the operation it also means that less sedative is needed, which also speeds recovery.

The drug works because it is a chemical bond which is quickly and easily destroyed by all the enzymes in the body. Morphine, however, can only be broken down by the enzymes in the liver so it has to work its way through the entire system before it ceases to have any effect.

Dr Park said that even after a four-hour operation patients anaesthetised with the new drug were able to have the tube connecting them to a ventilator removed after 25 minutes. This reduced the danger of pneumonia and overcame breathing difficulties.

"We had one patient filmed for television while he was being operated on to replace his aorta," Dr Park said. "He was able to sit up in bed a little later that day and watch the programme."

The drug, developed by GlaxoWellcome with the trade name Ultiva, costs £5.50 for a milligram, which is enough to kill pain effectively for up to two hours. Morphine sells for only a few pence, but time in intensive care can cost up to £500 a day.


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long-term plan that over time will bring you a far better way to

deploy and manage your organisation's desktops. Already we

have announced the Zero Administration Kit. This is a set of

tools, available this summer, to help simplify PC management

and bring down cost of ownership by giving you a

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at a cost you can live with.

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To find out more about our Zero Administration for Windows Initiative visit us at www.microsoft.com/windows/innovation/

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

NEWS 9

Yachtsmen report pirate whalers in mid-Atlantic

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A PIRATE whaling fleet may be operating in the mid-Atlantic, conservationists claimed yesterday after a series of sightings of dead and injured whales floating or tied to buoys west of the Azores.

Yachts have been docking in the Azores with reports of fishing vessels operating without lights, and other illegal maritime activities. Wildlife experts believe that at least one whaling factory ship, backed by one or more "catcher" boats, is hunting in the area in contravention of international rules.

Some boats have collided with floating whales. In at least one case the animal was tied to a buoy fitted with radar reflectors.

Dr Mark Simmonds, of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society in Bath, which has been collating the reports, said yesterday: "It is likely that the catcher boats first kill or damage the whales with harpoons before tying them to the buoys. The factory ship then comes over the horizon and detects the buoys with its radar. It can then process the whale meat at its leisure." The species being killed are unknown, but evidence suggests that at least some are endangered sperm whales.

Jeff King, a Briton on the yacht *Tuesday Girl*, now docked in the Azores, said: "There is definitely whaling going on." He had seen unlit fishing boats and chatted over yacht radios was about seeing dead whales.

Brad DeLange, captain of the yacht *Globana*, said: "I never seen anything like this before. They are harpooning them and leaving them to die. The cruelty is unbelievable."

The claims come as nations meet in Harare, Zimbabwe, for a conference of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species.

Overfishing causes penguins to starve

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

OVERFISHING is forcing South American penguins to search for food so far from home that their chicks are starving to death before they return.

Zoologists from the University of Washington in Seattle, who track the Magellanic penguin of Punta Tombo, on the central coast of Argentina, have found that the birds sometimes travel for more than 300 miles on their foraging trips. These can last for more than three weeks, long

enough for the penguin chicks left behind on shore to die.

The authors of the study, P. Dee Boersma and David L Stokes, blame unregulated fishing for the penguins' hardship. Their account, to be published shortly in the journal *Marine Ornithology*, is especially critical of Russian trawlers which operate in large fleets and use immense drift nets.

Dr Boersma says the penguin population has fallen 20 per cent in ten years.

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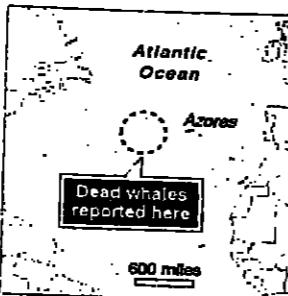
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open transom, or slipway, at the back, of the kind typically used by commercial whalers. Mr DeLange said he had seen a large group of whales near the surface on May 31. "In the middle of the pod there was a yellow buoy. When we approached the whales, they all submerged except the one near the buoy. It appeared to be attached to it. They were large whales, like sperm whales."

One of the last great pirate whaling operations was a Norwegian ship called the *Sierra*, which was eventually impounded in South Africa and sunk by saboteurs in 1980. It was registered in Liechtenstein, flagged in Somalia, had an international crew, a Norwegian skipper and Japanese meat experts. It labelled its meat "Product of Spain", and sold its illicit catch through the Ivory Coast to the Far East.

Rare rhinos, page 12



Reports suggest that the endangered sperm whale is among those being killed. Whaling nations want a partial lifting of the hunting ban



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Doctor defends decision to let premature baby die

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE doctor who pronounced a premature baby "not viable", and left her to die in her mother's arms, said yesterday it would have been "funie, heroic and foolish" to attempt to save her life.

Faisal al-Zidgali, a paediatrician at Ayrshire Central Hospital, told a fatal accident inquiry into Rebecca Cassidy's death last September that she had no chance of surviving and that it would have been cruel to intervene, despite her mother's pleas.

Rebecca was born weighing 1lb 4oz after a 25-week pregnancy. Within a minute of her birth she was turning blue, gasping for breath and her heart rate was between 10 and 12 beats per minute, compared to the norm of between 120 and 160, Dr Zidgali said.

Her skin was transparent and her limbs were grey and cold. She had internal bruising across her head and abdomen and her eyes were fused, he added.

Attempting to resuscitate her would have caused her pain and might have exploded her undeveloped lungs. Such

treatment would have prolonged her life for "only a couple of hours".

Dr Zidgali was giving evidence on the second day of the inquiry at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court. Kirsty Cassidy, 22, of Irvine, Ayrshire, hopes to establish that parents should have the right to demand treatment no matter how slim a child's chance of survival.

The doctor said that, on hearing of Rebecca's birth, he ran to the labour ward with every intention of resuscitating her. All the necessary equipment was ready. He had explained earlier to Mrs Cassidy that the options for treatment would depend on her condition and she had nodded in agreement, he said.

When he saw Rebecca, he realised that he could do nothing for her.

"There was no treatment to offer and no treatment to withhold. It would have been futile, heroic and foolish, trying to do something for a baby that, in any clinical judgment, was not viable. You should not do anything to harm that baby. All I had in mind was

against my medical training to try to save an infant who was not viable."

Dr Zidgali said that, in his four meetings with Mrs Cassidy, she had never once complained about his management of Rebecca's birth. Apart from the actual birth, all the meetings had been pleasant and she had thanked him for "doing what was best".

He said that, like any parent, Mrs Cassidy had been distressed when he told her that Rebecca was beyond help but, by the time he left, she had calmed down. An hour later he visited her again to offer his condolences.

"She was lying on the bed and she had Rebecca wrapped in a towel. She was stroking the baby's head. She said to me that she was glad I did not stick tubes and things into her [Rebecca]. She said it was the best thing to do for her."

Asked by John Macdonald, Mrs Cassidy's solicitor, whether he agreed that there had been a complete communications breakdown, he answered: "Absolutely not." The hearing continues.



Nick Sanders back in London yesterday. His journey took 31 days and 21 hours

Biker sets record for trip round the world

By MARK HENDERSON

A BRITISH motorcyclist who set a new record for a round-the-world road journey arrived home in London yesterday. Nick Sanders, 39, from Manchester, who has held records for cycling around the world and around Britain, arrived in Calais at 9.40pm on Monday after 31 days, 21 hours on the road. The previous record was 33 days by car.

He returned to London to a champagne reception in Battersea Park organised by his sponsors, Mobi, where he was reunited with his girlfriend, Henrietta Tremlett, who is five months pregnant. Mr Sanders, who rode a Triumph Daytona, has to wait two weeks before his ride is ratified by the *Guinness Book of Records*. He covered an average 700 miles a day, and rode for at least 18 hours at a time. "I slept where I stopped, four hours a night, sometimes on my bike," he said.

Aitken accused of covering his tracks over secret arms deal

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

JONATHAN AITKEN clashed yesterday with George Carman, QC, the leading libel lawyer, after being accused of concocting a catalogue of lies about an alleged secret arms deal.

Mr Aitken said that Mr Aitken's account of a family weekend at the Ritz Hotel in Paris in 1993, and who paid for it, was an attempt to "cover his tracks" over a clandestine meeting with prominent Arab businessmen.

Mr Carman listed 13 points which, he claimed, destroyed the former Tory minister's account of who paid for the visit and its purpose.

He told Mr Aitken, who was Defence Procurement Minister at the time: "Your story is a catalogue of improbability heaped upon improbability. I suggest it is a web of lies." The account was "so improbable as to be preposterous", he added.

Mr Aitken, who is suing *The Guardian* and Granada TV over allegations about his dealings with Saudi Arabian businessmen, angrily hit back. He told Mr Carman, counsel for the newspaper and television company: "I suggest the tangled web is in your advocacy and not in the facts of my case."

He dismissed the attack as rubbish and added: "I completely reject these flamboyant allegations." After Mr Carman had listed the 13 points, Mr Aitken said that he had already in evidence answered "each and every one of them to the best of my ability".

Mr Aitken, 54, who lost his Thanet South seat at the general election, claims that the weekend in Paris was a family event en route to Switzerland to introduce his teenage daughter, Victoria, to her new school. He has told Mr Justice Popplewell that the ultimate payment of part of his hotel bill by Prince Mohammed, son of the King of Saudi Arabia, was an unfortunate muddle.

Earlier on the fifth day of his

libel action, Mr Aitken admitted that he had received a "magnificent" watch from a brother-in-law of the Saudi King at the conclusion of a property transaction.

Mr Aitken said that he had not declared the gift of the "magnificent" watch in the Register of Members' Interests in the House of Commons but said that it did not amount to personal enrichment.

Mr Aitken said he had given the woman's watch to his wife, Lolita, or to a secretary and that it was commonplace for watches to be given in the Arab business world. He said it was a "matter of judgment" whether the gift should have been declared.

Mr Carman disclosed to the judge that *The Guardian* had received a fax on Monday night from an anonymous sender enclosing a copy of a letter on the headed notepaper of Al Bilad UK, a company of which Mr Aitken was a director, dated July 12, 1988.

The letter from Mr Aitken to the prominent Saudi businessman Dr Abdul Masri thanked him for his hospitality and asked him to "please pass on my warm thanks to Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibrahim for his most generous gift of that magnificent watch."

The hearing continues to day.



Aitken: received gift of "magnificent" watch

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Skeleton may prove Indians were not the first Americans

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE United States federal authorities have been accused of suppressing "politically inconvenient" scientific evidence that could prove that the first people to inhabit America were "Caucasoids" from Europe and not the American Indians.

The charge, made this week in *The New Yorker* magazine by Douglas Preston, a distinguished American science writer, centres on a 9,300-year-old skeleton called "Kennewick Man", now locked up in an army vault in Washington.

Archaeologists argue that the skeleton could help to rewrite the history of the peopling of America, showing that the descendants of the American Indians might have driven a people off their land in much the same way as they themselves were evicted, years later, by the white man.

Militant American Indian groups have dismissed these arguments as "another attempt to rob Native Americans of their history".

So sensitive is the issue, Mr Preston argues, that the Government is intent on burying the skeleton forever — literally. A court case which began last week, pitting archaeologists against the Government, is but a last-ditch attempt by the former to prevent the skeleton being handed over to Indian groups for a ritual entombment.

Mr Preston has described a complex saga. In June last

year, on the banks of the Columbia River in Kennewick, in Washington state, two residents stumbled upon a skeleton. James Chatters, a local forensics expert who conducted a preliminary examination, concluded that they were the 9,300-year-old bones of a Caucasoid — a term applied to a human type which ranges from Europe to parts of South Asia.

Kennewick Man, Mr Chatters found, was probably aged between 40 and 55 when he

We know that our people have been part of this land since the beginning of time

died, and stood 5ft 9in tall, much taller than the prehistoric Native Americans of the Northwest. But what was a Caucasoid man doing in the New World 93 centuries ago?

According to American textbooks, he should not have been there: received wisdom states that the Indians were the first Americans, having crossed over about 9,000 years ago from Siberia. Mr Chatters alerted archaeologists and anthropologists, who confirmed that his find was astonishing.



Ben Chaplin, left, and Rufus Sewell. Two of those Hollywood believes are redefining the look of British acting



Brats move aside for moody Brit Pack

Ewan McGregor: a hit with his role in *Trainspotting*FROM GILES WHITTETT
IN LOS ANGELES

CON MEN, hustlers, shell-shock victims and incurable romantics. Such are the roles Hollywood has given this year to an invasion of new foreign faces with one thing in common besides their gender and their penetrating stares. They are all British.

On the heels of Ewan McGregor, who shocked and delighted American audiences as the leading heroin junkie in *Trainspotting*, half-a-dozen wan young Brits are poised to make their big-budget Hollywood debuts in roles likely to make them the envy of the local Brat Pack.

Jude Law, 24, last seen naked in *Indiscretions* on Broadway, landed the role of a hustler in Clint Eastwood's next film, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Ben Chaplin, 27, appears with Jennifer Jason Leigh as an urbane swindler in a new version of Henry James's *Washington Square*. Linus Roache, 32, plays a member of America's least respected profession — a journalist — opposite Helena Bonham Carter in another Henry James adaptation, *The Wings of the Dove*.

Christopher Eccleston, the oldest of the pack at 33, appeared in art-house cinemas

as a reluctant Scottish murderer in *Shallow Grave*, but is expected to win a wider audience opposite the rising American stars Julianne Margulies and Renée Zellweger in *A Price Below Rubies*.

Jonny Lee Miller, 24, grapples with shell-shock in the Second World War drama *Regeneration*, and Rufus Sewell, a former boyfriend of Kate Winslet's, is scheduled to appear in two autumn releases including *Dark City*, with William Hurt.

The import surplus has been noted in sweeping language. "The bevy of English and Scottish lads currently invading our shores is redefining the look of British acting the way Michael Caine, Sean Connery and Albert Finney did 30 years ago," this week's *Entertainment Weekly* declared. Hollywood, it appears, has tired of foppish young men in the style of Hugh Grant and is looking to the mother country for new icons.

No one has captured Britain's loutish new image in Hollywood more completely than McGregor, who appears in three new films in quick succession later this year. He had the temerity to drink during a recent American interview, but redeemed himself on the way to "becoming utterly sloshed" by announcing: "I love New York".

Mafia arrest

Toulon: An Italian mafioso, considered the right-hand man to the supreme "Godfather" of Sicily's Mafia, was arrested in the French town of Toulon, police said. Francesco Albamonte, 55, was seized in the town centre. He was unarmed but carrying false identity papers. Albamonte is thought to be the right-hand man of Toto Riina, head of Sicily's Cosa Nostra organisation. He was wanted for drug trafficking. (AFP)

Uday recovers

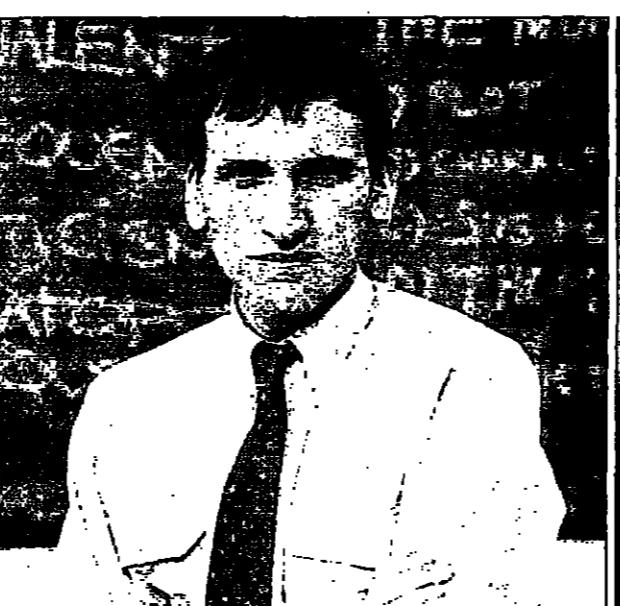
Baghdad: Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, 33, can walk with the help of crutches, six months after his leg was shattered in an assassination attempt, film of him leaving hospital shows. The Iraqi News Agency said he had made a "complete recovery from the treacherous attack on him". Five of his bodyguards are believed to have been executed after the attack. (AP)

Bikes recalled

Tokyo: Suzuki Motor Corp. announced the recall of more than 18,000 defective motorcycles in Japan, Europe and North America. A spokesman said 14,000 units of its DR-1000 model were being recalled because of defective handlebars. (AFP)

War veteran

Oslo: The Norwegian military has put Gyda Kaland, 98, on its reserve list — because she bought a new farm tractor last year. The military logs owners of civilian vehicles which may be useful in wartime. (AP)



Christopher Eccleston, left, oldest of the pack, and Linus Roache who plays opposite Helena Bonham Carter



Boeing helps golfer to indulge flight of fancy

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

A "MORNING AFTER" cocktail of powerful drugs may help people who have had a risky sexual encounter to avoid getting Aids, leading American doctors believe.

The same new drugs which are showing success in treating HIV and full-blown Aids may be able to prevent infection, doctors hope. Hospitals and clinics in cities with large numbers of HIV carriers are beginning to offer the drugs as a preventative measure for certain patients. Doctors

emphasise that there is no evidence yet that immediate action can completely prevent the virus taking hold.

But they point out that giving AZT, one of the first anti-Aids drugs, to hospital staff after, say, a scalpel wound, appears to reduce the risk of infection by 80 per cent.

AZT taken during the last six months of pregnancy also appears to reduce the chance that an HIV-positive mother will pass the virus to her baby from one in four to less than one in ten.

□ New York: The United Nations is testing a traditional

Oriental medicine in Vietnam that promises to provide a three-day cure for heroin addiction (James Bone writes). A cocktail of 13 herbal medicines that looks like a brown syrup has been administered to some 4,000 Vietnamese opium and heroin addicts with a recidivism rate of less than 30 per cent.

Known as Heantos, it was developed by Vietnam's leading specialist in herbal medicine, Dr Trang Khuong Dan, who deliberately became a heroin addict after his brother died from an overdose of the drug.

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Speaking at a news conference, Mr Norman said: "When I was a young assistant pro at the Virginia Golf Course in Brisbane, I'd save every dollar I could to pay for air fares. I never dreamt that I'd have my own jet one day. But I travel 275,000 air-miles a

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WORLD SUMMIT
Greek
Europe
corruption

Netanyahu says Israel will never be a 'ghetto'

BINYAMIN Netanyahu yesterday warned Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, that Israel would never reduce itself to "a ghetto state on the shores of the Mediterranean" by withdrawing to its 1967 borders, and vowed to continue construction of the disputed Har Homa settlement.

In a hard-hitting interview to mark his first year in office, the Israeli Prime Minister called on Mr Arafat to come to terms with ideological reality and abandon ambitions for shared sovereignty in Jerusalem or a Palestinian state. He also said that Israel would never cede control of the occupied Jordan Valley.

"Mr Arafat must tell his people openly and squarely that peace will not be achieved on the 1967 lines," Mr Netanyahu said. "Israel will not reduce itself to a fragile ghetto state on the Mediterranean shores."

"Equally, [Mr Arafat] must stop promising the division of Jerusalem because no one in Israel, or throughout the Jewish people, will permit the rebuilding of a Berlin Wall

In an interview marking his first year in office, Israel's Prime Minister ruled out any prospect of a return to 1967 borders, writes Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

inside Israel's capital. These are the important adjustments to reality that have yet to take place on the Palestinian side. When they do take place, I believe peace will be in reach."

Mr Netanyahu, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister, and at 47, its youngest, appeared untroubled by international criticism of his policy on settlements, in particular Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem. The morning papers had carried pictures of him pouring concrete during a cornerstone-laying ceremony for an architecture school in the West Bank settlement of Ariel. His gesture further infuriated Palestinians, who are resentful of the support he has so far given to the 144,000

"The easiest thing is to simply give away, to give up things. You will be patted on the back in the entire world," he said in a reference to the previous Labour Administration. "I think anyone who thought the stopping of the mad dash to the 1967 boundaries would pass without some kind of friction was naive."

Mr Netanyahu added: "We were, in fact, racing towards those indefensible lines when we took office, and we told the Palestinians: we are prepared to have peace, but peace requires mutual compromise. It requires adjustment of ideology to facts on the ground."

He claimed that by handing back 80 per cent of Hebron and releasing "women terrorist prisoners" his Government had kept its side of the Oslo bargain. He admitted that he had made mistakes, but underlined forcibly that he did not see these as either last September's opening of an archaeological tunnel in east Jerusalem or Har Homa.

Mr Netanyahu accused outsiders of treating Israel with double standards in the flagging peace negotiations. "Supposing I told you that if the Palestinians do not accept our view, then we will send in the tanks. You can say, 'that is not acceptable, you can't do that, you are negotiating peace.' But that is in fact what we are being told: that if the Palestinians' proposals are not met, they can take up bombs and rifles. That is a frame of mind

which has to be rejected." The Prime Minister said that against "quite a few pieces of advice" — including that of two former war heroes in his Cabinet, Ariel Sharon and Avigdor Kahalani — he had now accepted Egypt's offer of mediation in the effort to kick-start the stalled peace talks.

Asked about repeated stories in the Hebrew press that he had secretly agreed to pause or slow building at Har Homa, the declared condition of Mr Arafat for returning to the table, Mr Netanyahu was emphatic: he would not agree to such a requirement, either at Har Homa or elsewhere.

"This whole idea that the construction of houses, homes and schools is a barrier to peace is absurd," he said. "This whole notion that peace means the withering away of communities or their uprooting is an abominable form of human engineering that has already proved calamitous in this century."

Mr Netanyahu's greatest anger was reserved for the new Palestinian Authority order to kill Arabs selling land to Jews. Three Palestinians have been shot dead in the West Bank since last month.

Dismissing the new policy as "Nuremberg Laws", Mr Netanyahu said that it cast a grave shadow over the commitment of the Palestinians to peace and human rights. He said that new measures taken this week by Israel — the issuing of an arrest warrant for a Palestinian security official and the withdrawal of VIP travel privileges from another suspected of organising killings — were "just the beginning".



Binyamin Netanyahu during the interview. "Peace will not be achieved on the 1967 lines"

Thatcherism inspires an economic revolution

THE right-wing Prime Minister claimed to be fulfilling his election pledge of an economic revolution and to be "changing the face of Israel" with a privatisation programme that has only recently taken off (Christopher Walker writes).

"In the past four months we have privatised £613 million worth of government assets, ten times more than the previous Government privatised in its last year in office," Mr Netanyahu told me. Within six months he thought another similar amount would have been privatised.

With Baroness Thatcher an admitted economic inspiration, Mr Netanyahu added: "We are changing the face of Israel. Israel used to be a socialist, controlled economy. We are privatising and deregulating with a vengeance. We are about to add a third cellular phone operator — there are probably more cellular phones in Israel than anywhere in the world, or close to it."

While Mr Netanyahu has been coming in for widespread international criticism over his hardline peace policy, the Tel Aviv stock market has

been booming to record levels. Underpinned by clouds of a possible new Middle East war, foreign investors, attracted by the share offerings, have been flocking to the market. They now account for about 12 per cent of activity, up from nil three or four years ago.

"I think we have made big strides into my vision of Israel as a liberalised, free economy which is rapidly becoming one of the great centres of information and high-technology economy anywhere in the world," Mr Netanyahu said. Recent figures show that this race towards the

free market has been matched by a drop in inflation from 15 per cent at the start of last year to between 7 and 10 per cent.

The Likud-led Government, which has seen citizens' average per capita incomes rise to their present level of about £10,500 a year, has based its economic drive on two basic assets: the technological skills of the nearly one million immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have arrived since 1989, and Israel's military industries, now turning their expertise to new fields.

Woman is Algeria's voice of dissent

FROM PETER SHAW-SMITH IN ALGIERS

SHE is handsome, young, impulsive — and knows her own mind. And after Algerian officialdom, she is a welcome change.

Louisa Hanoune, leader of the Workers' Party, is Algeria's conscience, the heart on its sleeve. Most people here dismiss her views, which have been called "Trotskyist" by her detractors.

But, as the only woman leader of an Algerian political

party, she has an important role to play. She will probably never achieve power through the ballot box, but she is a guardian of morality and values.

As long as she speaks out, those in power will have a formidable critic.

In her office, she begins by dismissing the fairness of last week's elections. "The number of seats we won does not correspond to the reality. They

have decreed that we won four seats ... we should have won 15," she says.

It's clear that there was a nationwide problem. The National Commission for Surveillance of the General Elections also was an accomplice. It never replied to a single complaint. No one can find anyone at the commission to lodge a complaint with.

Some of the international observers also came under

attack from Ms Hanoune. The Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity said everything went fine. But one OAU observer fell asleep while at the polling station he was supposed to be monitoring in Tizi Ouzou, Ms Hanoune said.

There is absolutely no democracy here. On the contrary. This regime organised these elections in order to incapacitate institutions, to stifle the expression of the sovereignty of the Algerian people. It wants to keep itself in power ... and the methods it uses are fascist."

She described Algeria as a nation at war. "It is not simply a problem of violence," she said, adding that the conflict was taking place between several actors.

"They [the actors] are numerous. The state with, of course, its military branches and all those institutions which are armed. Certainly there are armed militias which were armed by the Government. The people have been taken hostage between these actors."

But what is at stake in this war is the Algerian economy. The economic situation here is disastrous. Three hundred corporations have shut down; hundreds of thousands of workers have no income. 350,000 people have not been paid their salary for two years and the national exchequer has not paid anything towards unemployment insurance.

Asked who is fighting the war against the regime, Ms Hanoune said: "We haven't seen any massacres against the regime. The victims of the massacres are the people — people who are isolated in the countryside, in towns ... We are in a state of emergency. There's no independent justice."

"There are no commissions of inquiry. The press isn't free. No one can do anything in these conditions."

□ Government resigns President Zeroual of Algeria yesterday accepted the resignation of Ahmed Ouyahia, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet, who stepped down as expected after last week's elections.

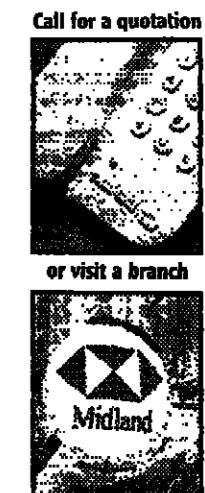
Mr Ouyahia will remain as a caretaker until a new Government is formed. (APF)

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As a precautionary measure, 3M Health Care Limited is recalling a single Lot of Medihaler-epi 400 dose pressurised inhaler. This product is used as part of the treatment of acute reactions to drug or insect sting allergies. We have discovered during routine quality testing that inhalers from this Lot may deliver a lower dose than stated on the label.

The Lot number affected by the recall is 96H01A.

No other Lots of Medihaler-epi inhaler or 3M Health Care products are affected. Patients are advised to immediately check the Lot number on their Medihaler-epi inhaler, which can be found on both the lid of the box and the label on the inhaler.

What You Should Do

If you have a Medihaler-epi 400 dose pressurised inhaler from Lot Number 96H01A please return it as soon as possible to the pharmacist or doctor who dispensed the inhaler. The pharmacist or doctor will give you a replacement treatment. Please take a copy of this notice with you.

3M Health Care is committed to a continuing high standard of manufacturing quality. We are recalling this Lot in the interest of patient safety and apologise for any concern or inconvenience that this may cause.

If you have any questions you should not hesitate to ask your pharmacist or doctor.

3M Health Care

'Stolen' paintings found in store

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

TWO paintings, one by Picasso and one by Monet, have been found in a Cleveland rented store five years after their disappearance from the home of a Californian eye surgeon.

Monet's *Customs Officer's Cabin at Pourville* (1882) and Picasso's *Nude before a Mirror* (1932), were insured for \$12.5 million (£7.7 million) months before Dr Steven Cooperman reported them stolen from his home in Brentwood, Los Angeles.

No alarm sounded on the night of the alleged break-in and the police found no sign of forced entry, prompting Dr Cooperman's insurers to sue him rather than honour the policies. The case was settled out of court.

FBI agents focused their investigation on Cleveland last year after a woman there told police officers responding to a domestic violence call that James Little, her boyfriend, had stolen paintings. Mr Little, who now lives in Cleveland, did legal work for Dr Cooperman while living in the Los Angeles area in the early 1990s. Neither man has been approached by authorities investigating the case, but a lawyer for the insurance companies pored over court documents of a genuine burglary.

There was "a house full of artwork", said Alan Jampol, who estimated that the paintings had been insured for three or four times their true value. A \$250,000 reward for the paintings' safe return had been offered by an art loss register maintained by the International Foundation for Art Research. The FBI said the paintings, wrapped in cardboard, were "in great condition". □ Amsterdam: *Sunflowers* and *Lullaby*, two of his works which Vincent Van Gogh said repeatedly that he wanted to hang side by side, were reunited this week in the Van Gogh Museum here.

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Jospin persuades Renault to delay car plant closure

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Prime Minister, persuaded the car maker, Renault, yesterday to postpone its highly controversial plans to close the Vilvorde factory in Belgium.

Louis Schweizer, Renault's chairman, announced last night that he had appointed an independent expert to study ways of keeping the plant open.

His decision is a result of M Jospin's election pledge to give Europe a "human face" alongside the austerity of economic and monetary union.

But amid scepticism in France over the Prime Minister's chances of altering European history, the 3,000 workers whose jobs are threatened at Vilvorde questioned whether they had been given a lifeline or a short stay of execution. Renault insiders expect the independent expert to conclude next month that Vilvorde must shut its doors if the row over Vilvorde per-

suaded M Jospin to adopt Eurosceptic tones during an election campaign that saw him promise to put work and growth at the heart of the European agenda. That pledge was a crucial factor in his electoral success.

But translating it into action is likely to prove difficult. French commentators yesterday insisted on France's isolation within the EU after its refusal to accept the stability pact imposing budgetary discipline on countries that adopt the euro. They said that M Jospin was unlikely to convince his partners to include a commitment to economic expansion and job creation in a new version of the pact.

With the conservative President Chirac urging his left-wing Government yesterday to sign the pact next week, the Prime Minister is under pressure to back down at home and abroad.

He faces similar pressures over the symbolic question of Vilvorde. With a 46 per cent stake in Renault, the French Government could have blocked the factory's closure by forging an alliance with staff who own shares.

But it chose not to, aware that Renault needs urgent surgery to become competitive. Although the Government will present the appointment of an independent expert as a victory for the new social Europe it hopes to create, M Jospin knows that he might have to bow to economic reality and allow the plant to close.

However, he gave a clear sign of change in another area yesterday when he agreed to allow between 20,000 and 40,000 illegal immigrants the right to stay in France if they can show they are well integrated. His move will not be the sweeping effect of the late President Mitterrand's decision to regularise most illegal immigrants in 1981, but nevertheless it was welcomed by immigrant groups last night.

Photograph, page 24

Chirac finds grain of comfort for EU

Paris: President Chirac last night distanced himself from Lionel Jospin, his Socialist Prime Minister, when he urged the Government to sign Europe's stability pact next week (Adam Sage writes).

The Gaullist President's intervention opened a breach in his "cohabitation" with M Jospin but brought comfort to France's European partners, who want to see the pact ratified at next week's Amsterdam summit.

France's Socialist-led Government said on Monday that it needed time to evaluate rules designed to impose budgetary discipline on countries who adopt the euro. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, said he wanted additional measures to promote growth and coordinate economic policies before he could adopt the pact, which was agreed by M



A man caught stealing awaits punishment from Sierra Leone soldiers in Freetown yesterday. At least four soldiers have been summarily executed by an anti-looting squad in the capital after they tried to rape nuns and to loot their aid agency compound, security sources said

Fighting ends Paris dominance

Paris: Fighting continued in Brazzaville yesterday as President Chirac's attempt to secure a ceasefire in Congo Brazzaville merely underlined declining French influence (Adam Sage writes).

M Chirac announced on Monday that his personal crusade for peace had borne fruit, with pro-government forces and militiamen agreeing to lay down their arms.

However, he gave a clear sign of change in another area yesterday when he agreed to allow between 20,000 and 40,000 illegal immigrants the right to stay in France if they can show they are well integrated. His move will not be the sweeping effect of the late President Mitterrand's decision to regularise most illegal immigrants in 1981, but nevertheless it was welcomed by immigrant groups last night.

Photograph, page 24

Nigerian forces face disaster

THE revolutionary forces of Major Johnny Paul Koroma, the coup leader, operate in the Sierra Leone capital much like a Los Angeles street gang, with beheading and dismemberment as specialities.

Despite that, the soldiers of the new Nigerian-led West African "peacekeeping" force seem likely to be the heralds of doom for the future of Econog, the West African peacemakers, and Nigeria's influence in the region.

Having dealt a humiliating blow to Nigerian forces in Freetown during last week's fighting, the rebels' Armed Forces Revolutionary Council has now consolidated its grip around the capital and could be dislodged only by a concerted series of attacks from land, sea and air. Though Nigeria may be prepared to ignore international condemnation over the large number of civilian casualties that would be involved in such an opera-



Having humiliated Nigeria, the coup leader in Sierra Leone is here to stay, reports Anthony Loyd in Freetown

tion, it seems unlikely its forces have the means to launch one.

"The Nigerians haven't got any more than 3,000 men, at the most, stuck in Freetown," said Major A. S. Koroma, himself a Sandhurst-trained officer, although no relation of the coup leader.

"They are split between two locations on low ground and control one airstrip now, which we could shell at will. Communications with their base in Liberia are haphazard and we do not believe they have more than two small frigates off the coast. They are welcome to attack us again if they wish," said the major.

"We will bow our heads to every air sortie, and when the time comes for them to send their troops they will meet disaster."

Sierra Leone's former regular army has more than 3,000 men in the capital. They have been joined by at least 6,000 of their former foes, the Revolutionary United Front. The force is heavily armed, and though individual groups operate more according to gang loyalty than a military chain of command it appears intent on holding Sierra Leone.

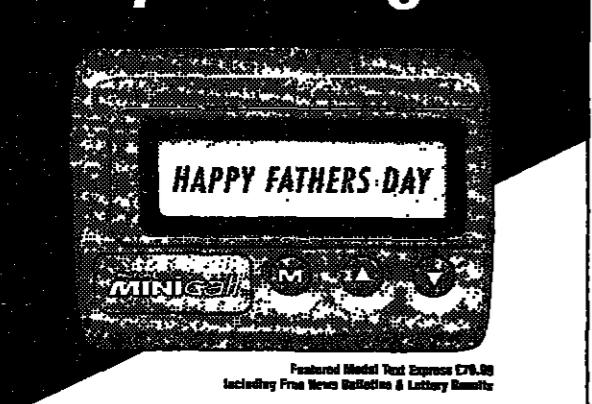
"See them soldiers there," said Muhammed, an RUF soldier, pointing to a dejected group of Nigerians in their

isolated base at Hastings. "If they try something, we'll kill them all." Muhammed is 17 and has been a soldier in the Sierra Leone bush since he was 12. Sitting in the back of a pickup truck he cradled a Kalashnikov. As with all the RUF fighters, he seems tougher than his regular army counterparts. He and his comrades in the Jeep killed more than a dozen Nigerians in the fighting. He said it was easy work. Another 379 Nigerian soldiers have been captured, including a brigadier.

The only feasible way out is by negotiation, and the damage to Nigerian credibility does not bode well for the July elections in Liberia, where Nigerian troops are the key to stability. Painful as it may be for the Nigerians to accept, Major Johnny Paul Koroma and his men are here to stay. At least until the next coup.

Leading article, page 19

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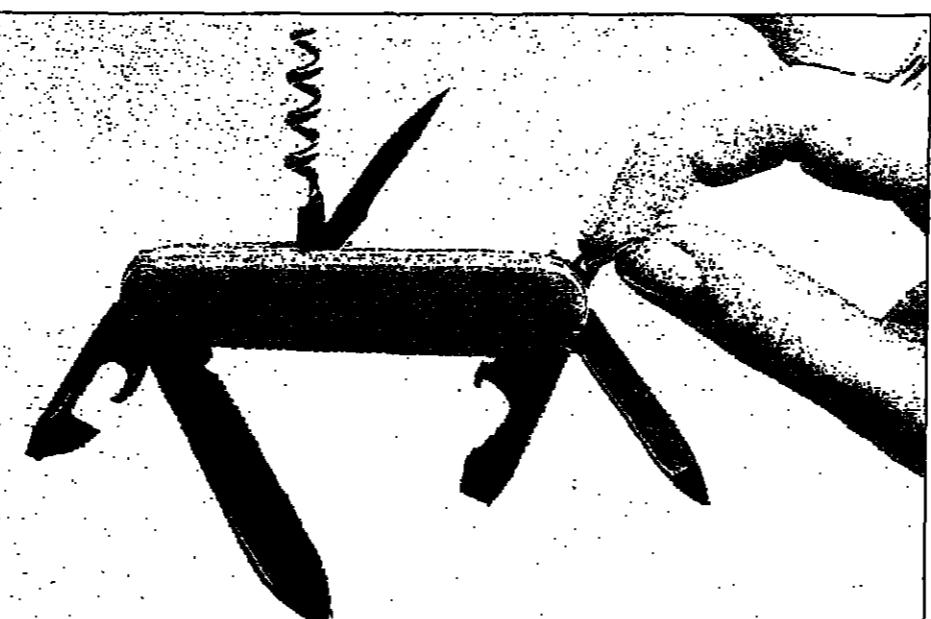
Trusty Swiss army knife turns 100

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

REVELATIONS about Nazi gold and wartime collaboration have rattled many of Switzerland's proudest claims: its neutrality, the independence and integrity of its bankers. Even Emmenthal cheese has taken a knocking with reports of corruption in the export trade.

But one achievement has remained as solid as the Matterhorn — the Swiss army knife, which tomorrow celebrates its 100th birthday. The knife has conquered the pockets of the world and, indeed, beyond. Astronauts in NASA spaceships use it, as do Nigerian paratroopers, British explorers and Boy Scouts everywhere. Lovesick teenagers carve their initials in trees with it. Vienna's carriage drivers use the device to remove stones from the hooves of their horses, mountaineers have saved their lives by cutting off fingers with the metallic saw implement.

The knife was patented on June 12, 1897, by Karl Elsener, son of a Swiss hammaker. The idea was to exploit the vanity of the officer class who wanted a smaller, lighter knife than that supplied to the rank and file. It was a rather basic model compared to today's variants consisting of blades,



About 34,000 Swiss army knives are made every day. It was first patented in 1897

tin opener, screwdriver and a corkscrew. The top-of-the-range model, the Swiss Champ, has 64 parts and 33 functions, including rolled-up plasters, matches and safety pins along with the more usual scissors, magnifying glass, toothpick, ruler, nail file and wood and metal saws.

There are more than 100 models: a fisherman's version with a device to scrape off scales and a managerial mod-

el with a laser pointer. Many knives now have a watch embedded next to the Swiss Cross emblem, thus twinning the country's two trademark products.

The success of the knife owes much to the apoplectic temperament of the Swiss who, even when dressed in banker's pinstripes, seem to have inherited the mountain farmer's anxiety about imminent avalanches and storms.

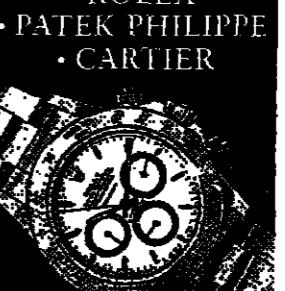
The Swiss Army uses different olive-green model, allowing the company — now run by the third generation of the Elsener family in the Schwyz canton — to export the more usual red-and-silver knife without falling foul of strict arms sales restrictions. Critics sneer that the knife is the Swiss Army's most powerful weapon now that the pigeon-carrier unit has been disbanded, and it is probably

the latest addition is a fine needle to be used to unblock frozen water jets on a car's windscreen wipers.

□ Damage control: Switzerland has retained two American public relations firms to restore its image after being vilified for profligacy from its Nazi dealings. (AFP)

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Clinton under fire as struggle looms over China trade

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS on Capitol Hill yesterday fired an opening salvo in the annual debate over China's trading status, condemning the American sale of dozens of supercomputers to Beijing as a threat to national security.

The first political shot in what is certain to become a highly charged debate over "most favoured nation" status for China came as Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State, said the strength of Hong Kong's future free market depended on continued trade with Beijing.

Opponents of the Administration's policy of engagement with China, however, are attacking President Clinton's deregulation of computer exports two years ago. Since then Chinese companies have bought a mountain of technology, including 46 sophisticated supercomputers capable of designing more efficient nuclear warheads.

The National Security Council, claiming civilian buyers in China have ensured that the supercomputers are not employed for other purposes, is at loggerheads with many in Washington's intelligence community who believe the technology is being diverted for military means.

We think many of the supercomputers sold to China are being integrated into the military weapons develop-

ment area in a way that is going to make their weapons more sophisticated and lethal," said Senator Thad Cochran, a Mississippi Republican. He's holding a hearing today to examine the role of the United States in helping other countries with technology.

Revoking trade status, she said, would derail prospects for Sino-American co-operation on issues ranging from the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear programme to encouraging talks between Beijing and Taipei. The Chinese would retaliate against US exports and endanger at least 170,000 American jobs.

Ms Albright highlighted Hong Kong's transfer of British sovereignty to China next month. She said that the Hong Kong government had estimated that an end to trading relations might cut as much as \$30 billion (£18 billion) from the territory's trade, eliminate as many as 85,000 jobs and reduce economic growth by half.

The criticism comes as Republicans in Congress begin their debate over "most favoured nation" status for the world's most populous country. The vote this summer is unlikely to block Mr Clinton's decision to continue normal trade with Beijing, but the Republican and Democratic opposition is stronger than at any time in his presidency.

Congressional opponents say the Administration should suspend normal trade until China changes its policy on human rights, market access



President Jiang Zemin, left, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, are expected at handover ceremony

Beijing silent on who will attend 'handover show'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

ON THE flight to Qingdao in Shandong province, the China Eastern Airlines stewardess announced: "It is 660 kilometres to Qingdao, the flight time is one hour and there are 21 days until Hong Kong is reunited with the motherland."

All over China, in keeping with a government campaign, the handover of Hong Kong to China on June 30 is Topic A. But try to find out who will represent China at the ceremony in Hong Kong and there is a wall of secrecy.

At the Foreign Ministry briefing yesterday, Cui Tiankai, the official spokesman, when asked who would represent China at the handover, said: "That is not clear. You will know sooner or later."

In Shanghai, shoes on public sale carry the message "Tomorrow is better than today, Hong Kong will return to China on June 30, 1997." In the school and parks of the country, children sing songs about Hong Kong's return to the motherland. Signs showing the Bauhinia flower, a sterile hybrid blossom that will be the new symbol of the Special Administrative Region, are everywhere. But ceremonies in Tiananmen Square will be ticket-only affairs.

In Beijing, the railings marking the centre of the principal avenues, the lines in the road and the advertisement hoardings have all been repainted to mark the return of Hong Kong. But about 20 yards on either side of the

main boulevards, the repainted signs peter out.

Widely disseminated instructions about how to fly the official flag of China and Hong Kong indicate that the Chinese flag must fly on the right and must be bigger than the Hong Kong flag.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, will attend events on July 1 after the formal handover ceremony. Foreign diplomats in Beijing say that the presence of Mr Li would be a slap in the face for world opinion and a message to Hong Kong that it had better follow the official line.

Mr Li who is bitterly unpopular among hundreds of millions of Chinese, is credited with establishing martial law in Beijing before the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing on June 4, 1989, in which hundreds died and is considered to have the blood of students on his hands.

■ Hong Kong: The three main universities in the colony, Hong Kong University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the City University, are in dispute about whether a statue commemorating the Tiananmen Square victims can be built on their campuses (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

The statue was first seen in public here last week during the vigil attended by 60,000 people on June 4, commemorating the eighth anniversary of the killings.

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Japan-US military ties worry Chinese

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN sought yesterday to soothe Chinese fears about a proposed expansion of its military role in Asia as Beijing raised fresh objections to Tokyo's strengthened security ties with the United States.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, held discussions with Yukio Ito, his Foreign Minister, and Fumio Kyuma, the Defence Agency chief, on how to assuage the concerns of neighbouring countries about the new security arrangements, which would give Japan its highest military profile since the Second World War.

After high-level talks in Hawaii, Japan and America agreed to draft measures that for the first time could oblige Japan to provide US forces with substantial support. Xiong Guangkai, China's Deputy Chief of Staff, has criticised the new arrangements as a return to "Cold War thinking".



The St Gabriel's Babies Home in Melbourne, one of three institutions where tests were conducted from the 1940s

Australia 'tested vaccines on orphans'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A CLAIM that hundreds of children in Australian orphanages were used as human guinea pigs to test newly developed vaccines is to be investigated by the Victoria state government.

The children, many of them babies,

were injected with test vaccines over a 25-year period until 1970. Some received adult doses of an influenza vaccine and others were injected for whooping cough and herpes. *The Age* in Melbourne said.

Most of the experiments were carried out in orphanages and homes for illegitimate children in the Melbourne area from the mid-1940s. There was no

suggestion that any child had died, although some became ill and feverish. Last night health authorities defended the trials, saying that the doctors who conducted the tests should be regarded as "heroes saving lives". The tests were carried out at a time when influenza, diphtheria and polio were claiming hundreds of young lives.

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Angela, who lives with her son Oliver, 6, in Ipswich, has since had to make a claim on her car insurance. She said: "It was a stupid accident, I reversed into a car in the school car park. However, Norwich Union Direct were fantastic - the claim was dealt with immediately, all over the phone with no forms to fill in, and the car was repaired by the following week."

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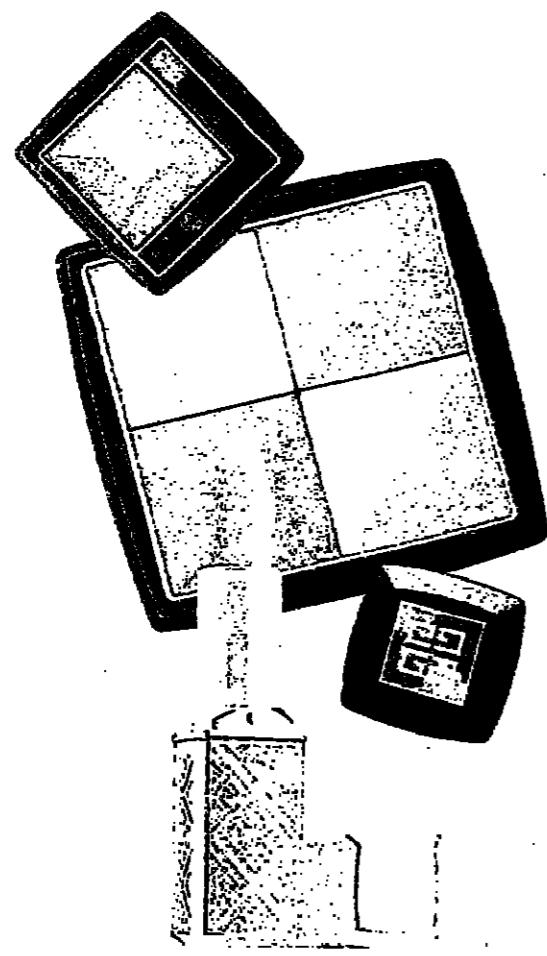
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Strike a pose: Naomi Campbell models one of Lainey Keogh's creations at London Fashion Week

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CHRIS MOORE

Yarns to charm the rich and famous

She has never studied fashion but the exquisite knitwear by Irish designer Lainey Keogh is sought after by supermodels and celebrities alike. Interview by Noreen Taylor

Who did supermodels Naomi, Helena, Iris, and Jodie get out of bed for during London Fashion Week in return for nothing more than a piece of clothing? For someone few of us have even heard of — Lainey Keogh, the Irish knitwear designer and the wealthy woman's secret.

"Such lovely girls," she enthuses back in her Dublin atelier behind buzzing Grafton Street. "And so excited over my clothes. Made me feel great, that appreciation."

Lainey's show was staged at the Cobden Club, styled by Isabella Blow. It was the fashion industry's official recognition of a woman whose business has been thriving for almost ten years. Trophy wives, rock and film stars buy her creations from such exclusive boutiques as Fred Segal in Los Angeles, Joseph in Paris, Luigi of Florence and Browns in London.

"I heard after she died that Jackie Onassis used to buy my sweaters," says Keogh wistfully. "I wish I'd known so I could have written to her and said, 'Thank you, you mega-person, for wearing my clothes.' But it's too late now." Few of Lainey's garments can be bought for under £1,000. And the word "knitted" somehow fails to convey the artistry of her clothes. They are spun from richly coloured silk threads, from cashmere with tints inspired by drifts of mountain smoke, from chenille with pigments so exquisite that they look as if they have been borrowed from the vestments of a Borgia pope.

Lainey has never studied fashion or attended art school. She was brought up on the outskirts of Dublin, one of ten children, and her father ran a market garden. "I'm the product of a great, big, passionate Irish family," she says proudly.

"My mother knitted Aran sweaters and I used to be fascinated watching as the shapes and patterns grew. They were so intricate, sensual even. Then she taught me, and I used to make all my dolls' clothes. Yes, I know you would have expected me to have gone to a design college. Instead, at 19, I began studying microbiology, and went on to work in a Dublin hospital lab.

"Disillusion set in about three years later. That coincided with me falling in love for the first time. I made him the most beautiful sweater, layered with suede and

leather strips. I gave it to him, he wore it, and then he went off and married someone else."

The man she loved produced records for U2, and the sweater he wore quickly became the most coveted garment in Dublin rock circles. Marianne Faithfull ordered one to wear on a cover album. The singer Enya bought one. Michael Mordell, the Irish designer, commissioned one for his collection.

"People were enchanted and very supportive," says Lainey. "I was always being invited to things, introduced to people. Eventually, I taught others who became part of my knitting team."

She is pale-skinned, with tousled, auburn curls and defiant blue eyes, and her figure, encased in one of her own chenille dresses, is comfortably curved. She projects a blend of seen-it-all cynicism rather than the usual bouncy kind of joy associated with fresh success.

My request to know her age is brushed aside. "That doesn't matter," I suspect she's in her mid-thirties. "I have no home," she says, "no husband, no children. I have lovers though, and my wonderful team of seven in the

office, which is what you see here." What you see is an Aladdin's cave, stacked full of her next winter collection. The man who got away may have broken her heart, but keeping her head has won her a coveted place in the fashion industry.

Perfect timing, too. During the late Eighties, a newly confident Ireland emerged. Gifted young people found they could stay at home, write their books, plays and songs. Film-makers, attracted by talent, beautiful unspoilt landscapes and a Government which provided tax breaks, began swarming across Dublin. So many productions were going on at one time that the place became known as Belfast.

Costume designers who had become friends began commissioning her to do pieces for various films, and finally an Irish-American businessman introduced her to Barneys, the New York store.

"I turned down three meetings with him after I'd found his business was called Top of the Morning. Eventually, I resigned myself and found that he really had an impressive reputation in the American market." Various other

exclusive boutiques stretching from Palm Beach to San Francisco followed and soon Lainey was on the backs of those who could afford quilted cashmere coats: Liz Taylor, Derni Moore, the Stones, Jack Nicholson and Whoopi Goldberg.

"The prices were no obstacle. Each garment is hand-made, and if they can afford them, people don't mind buying something they see as a work of art," says Keogh. The Americans took everything. Their mouths just dropped open when I opened my suitcases and showed them what I'd made."

The fibres come from Italy but the clothes are made in Ireland. "I love being able to have those words — Made in Ireland — on my label. I'm very aware that I'm privileged being able to operate in my own spot."

"I fear I'm beginning to make this journey of mine sound as though it was one quick bound up the stairway to success, because it wasn't. About eight years ago, I woke up to find myself under a mountain of debt. I was a naive enthusiast, hobbling along, not bothering with accounts or charging proper rates. When people saw how much I owed, they urged me to get out, declare myself bankrupt, to just forget everything and hide away somewhere. How could I do that? Knitting was my life. And what about my family's good name?"

"So I forced myself to stick at it, to learn about profit margins, accounts, credit loans. By July 1992, I had paid off my debts and was ready to take the next step."

Now she has 15 hand-knitters working from home who take about a month to make a sweater.

The mass market doesn't excite me. I enjoy the slow, complicated process that goes into creating each piece. The kind of clothes I want to design will always be individually crafted pieces, and as such cannot be made cheaply. I like to design for women of all sizes — confident, sexy women who are comfortable with their body shape."

Women with money? "My clothes are like an investment," comes the dismissive reply. "They invite desire."

Pulling extravagantly lavish cashmere coats from rails to illustrate her point, she strokes the fabric with all the sensuality and affection usually reserved for lovers or babies, crooning their praises.

"Look at this dress! Iris Palmer wore it and looked divine," she says. "There were risks on every step of this journey, but they were worth it."

"Men disappoint, babies grow up and leave you. You'd be right in thinking that clothes are both my pleasure and my reward."



Saucy number: Chrystelle



Slinky: Helena Christiansen



Cool chic: Honor Fraser

HOT BUYS — COOL TRENDS

MOTORISED scooters of the kind six-year-olds used to ride are becoming this summer's equivalent of rollerblades. At a party last week, thrown by *Trace* magazine, the low whirr of these faintly ridiculous skateboard-cum-mopeds could be heard all evening as the likes of Jungle DJ Goldie arrived on his Badsey Zip (around £650). Cheapest are the Go-Peds, from £500. At the top of the market is the Badsey EMX £1,995. Bob Geldof, Meg Matthews — Noel Gallagher's wife — and Bjork have all bought scooters. Board Silly, Old Church Street, London SW3 (0171 352 6456).

THE American magazine *Alture* calls it a "collapsible nylon tote": Prada has created a shopping trolley. It has wheels at the back and plastic

legs at the front, and is made from the same industrialised nylon as the ubiquitous rucksack. There are no plans to stock it in Prada's Sloane Street store, but it can be purchased in New York for a mere \$480 (£300).

HELEN STOREY, the fashion designer, is joining forces with her sister Kate, a developmental biologist, to produce her first collection since her business collapsed in 1995. The clothes, based on the development of the human embryo, will be presented during London Fashion Week this autumn. The sisters have received a £25,000 grant as part of a new scheme by the Wellcome Trust, aiming to bring scientists and artists together.

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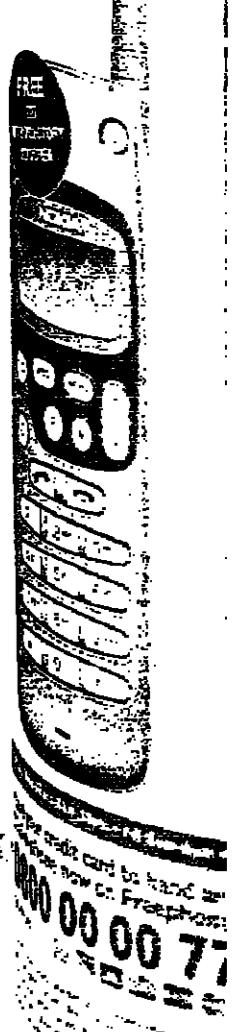
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ST
GO HAN



Alan Coren



■ At Collingtree did Kubla Khan a stately Barratt Home decree

You find me, this morning, fraught with imponderability as to why Barratt, described in their brochure as Britain's Premier House Builder, should have sent me that brochure in the first place. Was it because they thought I might be looking for a second place? A bucolic weekend bolthole, say, far from the bustling peripatetic chic of Cricklewood? Or even somewhere to replace Cricklewood altogether, given that, for all its legendary boons, it is noticeably short of the lakes, golf courses, and lush greenward of Collingtree Park, and nestled (by Barratt) as the finest and most prestigious location in the entire Northampton area?

Or is it simply that Barratt believe that, however content I am in my current premises, with no thought of upping sticks, this thought might nevertheless be put into my head by the news that at Collingtree Park they have created a literary environment whose atmosphere a hack would find irresistible, rich as it must be in regenerative stimulus for an imagination worn to a frazzle by 40 years at the rock face? For the Collingtree Park Estate — described as A Premier Collection — is composed of houses called Wordsworth, and Tennyson, and Longfellow, and Coleridge. These, it should be noted, are not individual dwellings, but individual styles: some have been built, but others will be added as the development grows, which means that if you move quickly you may, for £37,500, snap up Early Wordsworth, a period A-level student will tell you found him in prime nick, but if instead you dither until you end up with Late Wordsworth, when the old twerp had bumbled into rickety disorder, you might well find yourself regretting that you didn't go for the bargain Longfellow at £26,500.

Which — though it lacks the keynote pond fronting the Wordsworth, inviting purchasers to row back and forth across their miniature Grasmere, trailing clouds of glory, until it is time for the pondsides daffs to sprout up for a bit of a dance — has enough bespoke features of its own to fill the head with Henry's rollicking rhythms as one potters his premises: See the fully fitted kitchen. Each appliance integrated. Note the seamless double-glazing. Finest and the most prestigious. Let us look now at the garden. Lo! its broad and sunny aspect, Lo! its wealth of shrubs and borders...

It has only a double garage, mind. The Wordsworth has a treble. I don't know why this should be, he got along at Dove Cottage, as I recall from my school visit, with a ramshackle outhouse. God knows what Barratt were thinking about, one each for William and Dorothy, possibly, with a spare in case Southey drove over, although he could always stay across the road at the Coleridge (£279,950), which also has two, unless, of course, a person from Porlock has turned up unexpectedly.

Why the Coleridge, incidentally, should be £10,000 more than the Tennyson, I cannot guess, except that, from the brochure, the Tennyson looks, stylistically, to be something of a dog's breakfast: surprising to find that so meticulous a prosodist should have not only an asymmetric double-front, one side flat and bricky, the other stuccoed with a bay, but also two titchy fake-Tudor windows over a garage topped by a roof unapprisingly lower than the rest of the place. Hardly what one would expect of a man who could nail together an item as tricky as *Ulysses* with not a syllable out of kilter.

Stop this. We know that Barratt aren't thinking about poetry at all, but seeking merely to confer upon their properties the property of traditional quality associated with names hallowed by blackboard consensus. Barratt, like all the other big developers, have truffled the heritage for their themed estates, unearthing Drakes and Wellingtons and Marlboroughs, Constables and Gainsboroughs and Turners, all to endow their instant mock-villages with spurious tone. Pressing the culture's immortal poets into service is entirely consistent, indeed, given the plummeting state of that culture, it is quite possible that, any day now, it will be the sole remaining means of ensuring their immortality.

This is the way the world ends, not with a bang but a Wimpey.



Stick to your party's man

The country recognises Clarke as a giant among parliamentary pygmies: Tory MPs would be mad to reject him

feet at close quarters they are uniquely well-placed to judge their leadership. Indirect democracy is the British way, mob rule constrained by oligarchy. It has given Britain the best leaders in the world, so it is said.

The Conservative Party is Britain's oldest and most potent political movement. It can also be the craziest. Of the candidates who stood in last night's leadership contest, one stands head and shoulders above the rest. Whether or not I agree with Kenneth Clarke's policy portfolio, polls indicate that he is the overwhelming favourite among voters at large: 31 per cent support among Tories and the public generally, against 9 per cent for his nearest challenger, William Hague. He is experienced, intelligent and combative, an ideal foil for Tony Blair. Why not choose him?

Last night Mr Clarke appeared to have 'won' the leadership overwhelmingly in a vote among some 600 party activists. He has come top in the MP's poll. Yet tonight the parliamentary party is locked in combat between Mr Clarke's team and a 'stop Clarke' bandwagon. The purpose of that bandwagon is to balk the man who would be the choice of their party and the voters generally. We are witnessing a classic of the party as club rather than as movement.

The Tory constitution lays down that the leader be chosen by an electoral college of sitting MPs. The invention of this college in 1965 replaced the old 'customary processes', but hardly gave the party a more democratic format. The intention was that an insecure leader could be challenged by a 'stalking horse' without the loyalty of colleagues being tested on a first ballot. Thus did Margaret Thatcher fall in 1990. But the franchise did not extend to the party in the country. MPs were expected to listen to their constituents' views before casting their vote, but that was the extent of their democratic duty.

The rationale for this was elitist. The old saw holds that a leader who can 'command the House can command the party and thus the country'. It was the peculiar genius of this constitution that gave the country Margaret Thatcher in 1975 and John Major in 1990, in preference to Willie Whitelaw or Michael Heseltine. MPs claim that by watching politicians perform on their

Mr Clarke is a curious mix. disorganised, undogmatic, a hater of vested interests, a poor chairman, but also relaxed and with a common touch. He is a suburban lawyer with a pint, cigarillo and suede shoes who could just pass muster as a knight of the shire. The contrast could not be more stark with the lean, hungry men of the Thatcherite succession, now circling him with daggers in their totas.

The appeal of the anti-Clarke lobby is motivated by defeatism and ideological fog. The party will be out of office for ten years, so let us tear up our programme and return to basics. Thatcherism was the one successful ism to come to the Tory party's way since the last war. Let us summon its acolytes to re-examine the corpse for signs of life, Michael Howard, Peter Lilley, John Redwood, it does not matter which. This is the moment for the Conservatives to be thinking.

The Conservatives are now choosing a leader to present to the country as prime minister in the new millennium. There is nothing in the psephology, the ideology or the demography of Britain to stop them winning that election. History could well view Mr Blair as having done no more than keep Downing Street warm, while those who fashioned Britain's economic success in the 1990s took a ten-year break. That at least is the way the Conservatives should be thinking.

If I were a Tory MP I would have reservations about Mr Clarke. He is a card, a character actor, rather than a star performer. He is no longer young. He can appear idle, with the political arrogance that comes from long service in the Treasury. Above all he cannot mask his distaste for those who serve in what must now be the engine room of Tory recovery, the party in the constituencies and above all in local government. He is a ferocious centralist.

Yet he has plainly won the confidence of the bulk of his party. The party does not want another Lady Thatcher, a leader required to pioneer a revolution (and rarely popular). Mr Clarke offers the most plausible welcome when the ranks of Labour defectors begin to swell. He can welcome back old statesmen to the fold: Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind, Michael Portillo. He is the man to heal the wounds of the past two years.

Tory voters stayed at home because 'it is time for a change'. They did not rush to Labour. The present Government has no more substantive popular support than did Mr Major in the last Parliament, and is most unlikely to increase that support at a future election. The Tory party may need only to sit tight, shut up and recharge its local batteries for victory to be within its grasp. Get out the 14 million Tory votes that held

Forger popularity. This is back-to-drawing-board time. Or take a pig-in-a-poke. Be vague, ask for...

Such defeatism is ludicrous. The last election was not a democratic triumph for Labour. It was only the crazy arithmetic of first-past-the-post that made it seem so. The Labour vote was roughly the same as that secured by Mr Major in 1992. Labour's share, at 44 per cent, was lower than was won by any government in the 1950s or 1960s. Mr Blair's Commons majority may be magnificent and dazzle the press corps, but it is not real war.

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between 1979 and 1992, snatched 2 per cent off Labour for anti-government swing, and a Tory win is feasible. Mr Blair and his team are canny enough to know this. Only the Tories go round talking about ten years in opposition.

The ideological fog is no less absurd. The Tories are still behaving as if they lost the argument as well as the election. They did not. They won the argument, which is why they lost the election. The Thatcher-Major era produced a Britain safe enough to risk giving the Labour Party a turn in power, and a Labour Party safe enough to be risked with that turn. New Labour is one of the Tory party's great achievements. Lady Thatcher presided not just over the death of history but the death of ideology, and not just in Britain but across Europe.

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If Mr Clarke does not work out, there is no problem. There is time for second thoughts. One thing the Tories have come to love is a leadership contest. In opposition they can have one every year. After the healing can come more wounding. They are still lords of the flies.

Played false by memory

Derwent May on a battle among psychiatrists

A few weeks ago Lady Parker, the physician wife of Sir Peter Parker, resigned from the committee of Refuge, the charity that helps battered women and children, because some of its members thought her position was incompatible with her chairmanship of the British False Memory Society. The aim of this society, based in Bradford-on-Avon, is to alert people to the way in which untrue memories of childhood sexual abuse are being elicited from patients, often young women, during psychotherapy — with nightmarish consequences for the parents or other adults who are falsely accused of the abuse. Lady Parker did not believe that there was any conflict of interest in her position, but she accepted Refuge's decision.

Now it looks as if a bigger row is about to break out over this highly charged subject. The Royal College of Psychiatrists set up a large and impressive working party to look into the whole question of supposed "repressed" and "recovered" memory, which delivered its report almost a year ago. Nothing has since been heard of it since.

The college says that it is preparing a set of guidelines for psychiatrists based on the report, and hopes to publish them in July. But the chairman of the working party, Sydney Brandon, the Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Leicester University, is getting very impatient, and is beginning to wonder if the report will be published at all. Another member of the working party, Dr Janet Boakes, of St George's Hospital, Tooting, has said that she is equally disturbed by the delay.

The report, I understand, urges scepticism and extreme caution about accepting claims of "recovered memory". But the college has many members with a firm Freudian conviction that the memories of disturbed patients must be both believed and followed up. So a battle royal — as one might say — is going on within the college over the wording of these proposed guidelines.

Dr Patrick Bateson, the Provost of King's College Cambridge, who is on the scientific board of the False Memory Society, put it this way: "Psychiatrists who draw out memories like these from their patients do not believe that corroboration is their business. If there is any chance that there has been abuse, nothing else matters." Similarly, Dr Boakes says: "The psychiatrists who believe in recovered memory act in good faith. But they make a distinction between empirical evidence, which is for other people, and their own interpretative or hermeneutic approach. For them there is what they call 'narrative truth' — what the patient believes — and that is all that matters." (That is also the view of the more militantly feminist members of Refuge about what women say — which explains their opposition to Lady Parker.)

If this strange psychiatric approach affected only the patient, perhaps it would not matter so much. But already in America and to some extent here it has led to the traumatic break-up of families and even to criminal prosecutions of accused parents. Yet there is real "empirical" evidence to show that memories of abuse can be wholly false. Many of the "memories" go back to a period in babyhood before memory begins. Many young women patients, when they are presented with evidence from dates and photographs that their claims could possibly not be true, have completely retracted — and then sued their psychiatrist for false diagnosis, or even for implanting the false memories.

Dr Bateson has seen a video record of a remarkable experiment that was carried out under stringent control. A small girl was given a normal physical examination by a paediatrician. A little later the girl was given a doll, and asked to show on the doll what the doctor did to her. The first time, she gave a more or less accurate representation of the way he examined her abdomen and so on. But when, on successive occasions, she was asked to enact again what he had done, a greater degree of sexuality appeared each time, until finally she took a pencil and thrust it between the doll's legs.

Clearly, her own imagination had introduced the sexuality into her "recollected". It is a dramatic demonstration of, at least, the possibility of "false memory". One has only to consider what might have happened to the paediatrician if the girl had been questioned by a psychiatrist and come up with that memory.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists should not only produce guidelines for its practitioners, but now also open up the subject to proper debate. The psychiatrists themselves are in danger if their diagnoses prove to be false and damaging (which does, it must be admitted, make the hardline Freudians seem rather courageous). But the matter extends far beyond their interests.

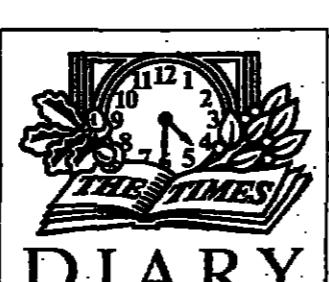
The distinguished American anti-Freudian professor, Frederick Crews — whose book on the subject, *The Memory Wars*, is reviewed in *The Times* tomorrow — has compared these so-called "memories" to the "spectral evidence" of demonic possession which led to witches being burnt. Now, however, it is the "witches" parents who go to the stake.

Professor Brandon told me that if his report is not published soon, he will "either explode or publish it himself". It is high time for the Royal College of Psychiatrists to come clean.

Lost and found

FOR the residents of Brasted, Kent, Tuesday June 10, will not be a day easily forgotten. For it was at teatime yesterday afternoon that Sir Lancelot, the llama belonging to Lord and Lady Nolan, returned.

He had first been noticed missing 24 hours earlier when the gamekeeper at Chevening, the deputy Prime Minister's grace-and-favour country house nearby, telephoned the local police to report a stray llama roaming the grounds. He presumed it must be Sir Lancelot, for the last two years guardian of the Nolans' sheep.



Lady Nolan returned from London next morning to co-ordinate the recovery in person.

She takes up the tale: "The gamekeeper from the estate next to Chevening telephoned the following morning to report another sighting. I turned up in the Land Rover, no sign of him. Then someone else reported seeing him in Knockholt, so I tore up there. He'd gone by the time I got there."

At the suggestion of David Tomlinson, motoring writer for *Country Life* and Brasted neighbour, Lady Nolan went on Radio

Kent to ask if anyone had seen her llama. All the while her husband, the sleaze-buster, was in committee meetings in Westminster. "He had more important things to think about," said Lady N. "though he did call at lunch to see how the search was going."

Then around teatime, Sir Lancelot casually reappeared. His mouth full of cud, he sauntered back into view and reassured his position overseeing his flock.

"It's a great relief," said Lady Nolan. "I just hope he's got whatever it was out of his system now."

Gowrie stays

AFTER the sudden departure of their secretary-general Mary Alton for the shambles of the Royal Opera House, staff at the Arts Council have been understand-

ably jumpy. Chris Smith, however, has moved to reassure them. He has asked Lord Gowrie, the former Tory Minister, to stay on for another year-and-a-half and finish his five-year contract as Arts Council chairman.

Before Labour came to power, the story was that Gowrie would have to go and that somebody on the Left with artistic hitting power — the omnipotent Melvyn Bragg perhaps — would come in and save the day. But Gowrie has found an unlikely ally in Smith and Bragg appears to have been passed over.

When they turned out for duty the next morning, their faces were green and they were shuffling like naughty schoolboys. They told the PM about their curry. What else asked Major? James piped up. He had vague recollections of them both bouncing stewardesses on their knees. There might have been pictures. Neil Hamilton would seem like nothing in comparison. Major himself began to turn green but James and Cranborne could bear it no longer and burst out laughing. They had eaten and drunk too much, but

Excellent! Our campaign goes well!



Iman: cancelled

bouncing stewardesses? Just

bouncing up, Sir.

No show

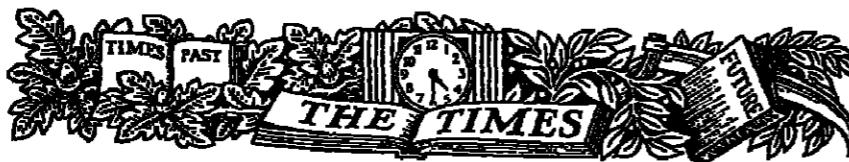
THERE were tears, an eleventh-hour panic and warnings of reprimand when supermodel Iman, David Bowie's wife, failed to turn up to open the Bhs Graduate Fashion Show in London on Monday.

Iman cancelled by telephone at the last minute and frantic calls were made to find a replacement. "There was no opening, we had to abandon the photo-call and it was dreadfully disappointing," said a distraught show organiser.

P.H.S

The lord and the llama: Nolan and the errant Sir Lancelot

Played
false by
memory
Derwent May



ON TO ROUND TWO

Thatcherites must choose their leader

Kenneth Clarke may have won the first round of the Tory leadership election, but the broadest smiles last night graced the features of William Hague and John Redwood. This was a battle of expectation and interpretation as much as of votes. The Shadow Chancellor's victory was widely predicted in the press, and was in line with the National Union's consultation exercise. He has not, however, opened up the clear lead over the other contenders for which he hoped. With no rival on the centre-left, Mr Clarke required a level of support in the fifties to be confident of grasping the laurel. In contrast, both Mr Hague and Mr Redwood surpassed expectations and enjoy, for the moment, momentum. Both will now try to convince the centre-right of their strengths as standard-bearer. Both still have some convincing to do.

Every campaign was a coalition and no candidate enjoyed a monopoly of support from any of the party's traditions but the figures, broadly, confirm the strength of the radicals in parliamentary Tory ranks. The Lilley, Howard and Redwood camps drew the vast majority of their strength from the free-market Eurosceptic right. Most of Mr Hague's supporters would align themselves with that strand of thinking and Mr Hague has sought to make it his own. On any reading of the result, the Conservative parliamentary party is still a Thatcherite creature. It cannot agree, however, on who should be her heir.

In the days ahead it must. Mr Clarke has fought a principled campaign, with the brio and honesty of one of Parliament's most impressive performers. If he was ever, however, to prove that he could be the radical leader that the Tory Party needs it had to be by attracting a sufficiently broad range of support in the MPs' ballot. His success in attracting the support of constituency representatives should not be dismissed, but for the purposes of this ballot it should be taken at a discount.

The figures released by the National Union distort the true strength of grass-roots feeling by giving the vote accorded to

chairmen of widely-differing constituencies exactly the same weight, irrespective of their membership levels. Moreover, by recording only which candidate topped each constituency poll, but not how each activist voted, it exaggerated the support for Mr Clarke. If there is one clear lesson to be drawn from the election so far, then it is the need to adopt a more transparent and democratic method for consulting the wider membership.

Before then, however, MPs must weigh the merits of those who remain in the field to ensure that a candidate is elected who can effectively champion the party's core principles. John Redwood emerges a more considerable figure for having defied the doubters to come third. His campaign was characterised by the clarity and imagination on policy which makes him such a valuable politician. He has shown a consistent resolution which inspires formidable loyalty, but also powerful antipathy. Some of his supporters voted for him to make an ideological point, not to endorse a leader. If he is to turn his admirable crusade into a winning campaign he will have to demonstrate an inclusiveness which has so far eluded him.

If Mr Redwood has cause for quiet satisfaction, Mr Hague can allow himself modest jubilation. It is a remarkable feat for a minister scarcely two years in the Cabinet to have leapfrogged his more experienced rivals and come within striking distance of the front-runner. Mr Hague deserves credit for the manner in which he has brought radical thinking to discussion of the party's organisation and honesty to the inquest into defeat. He has built a broad-based campaign team, but in its breadth lies his weakness. By attracting the support of MPs as various as Michael Ancram, the High Tory moderate, and Alan Duncan, the libertarian radical, he has only underlined how little his colleagues know of his private views. To have won them both, and 38 more, certainly proves that Mr Hague has charm. Many others, however, will need to know much more about his beliefs before they can full-heartedly endorse him.

AFRICAN ABYSS

Sierra Leone awaits outside intervention

It has been 17 days since an improbable assortment of rebels led by Major Johnny Koromah seized power in Sierra Leone. That country now faces the prospect of sliding back several centuries. As Anthony Loyd has reported so vividly in the last few days, coherent authority no longer exists. Anarchy is almost everywhere. Armed competing power centres, with little in common except the brutality with which they operate, are its only opponents. The tragedy of Somalia looks set to be repeated.

Sierra Leone has long been an unfortunate nation. Despite prospective mineral wealth, it ranks as one of the poorest countries in Africa. Political stability has proved as impossible as economic prosperity. Coup has regularly followed coup. Rebellion has rarely abated. Instability has been the sole consistent factor.

It had been hoped that the relatively democratic elections of February 1996 that installed President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in office might provide some sort of fresh start for this troubled country. Even before the events of last month the optimism of such hopes had been exposed. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which has fought successive governments, had little respect for the ballot box. At least one attempted coup was forestalled last September. In November the Government and RUF signed a tentative agreement. A peace commission was appointed; demobilisation was supposed to occur and the RUF promised that it would transform itself into a political movement. At least three members of the peace commission then "disappeared", presumed dead, and the putative peace died well before Mr Koromah intervened and President Kabbah fled.

The outside world had hoped that Nigeria would deploy its troops and enforce some sort of order. That possibility involved all sorts of irony in itself. The notion of General Sani Abacha upholding democracy and the rule of law invited ridicule. Nigeria, however, remained the only nation with substantial forces in Freetown. It appeared capable of imposing the settlement which the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, and the Commonwealth had all rightly called for but could not or would not deliver.

The unlikely cavalry from Lagos has taken its time coming. An invasion is rumoured on an almost hourly basis but has not materialised. The rebel commanders who had appeared on the verge of abandoning the capital have now grown in confidence. Their swagger may soon prove misplaced. Nigeria has reinforced its army. But General Abacha might have reason to find instability in Sierra Leone more attractive than military involvement. He has long been willing to exploit factional turmoil in Freetown. Alternatively, he may realise that his forces have little enthusiasm for what might become a bloody fight.

Sierra Leone's friends now wait nervously for Nigeria. Neither the other West African countries nor the Organisation of African Unity seem capable of decisive action. Intervention from outside the continent is highly improbable. Africa is gradually polarising between nations such as Uganda that have embraced economic and political modernisation and those "failed states" such as Liberia where even the most basic aspects of modernity have been abandoned. Sadly, unless democracy is first restored and then entrenched, Sierra Leone is set to slip into the second category.

FLYING FEATHERS

Logos — like planes — need constant refurbishment

British Airways will no longer fly the flag. Since it took off, BA has decorated the tail planes of its aircraft with a patriotic national logo. Now only the airline's seven Concorde will still carry a (new) Union Jack design on their tails. The rest of the fleet will change liveries to become the airline that portrays the painting. Over the next three years BA's 308 planes will be repainted with "world images". And the rest of its equipment, from baggage tags to napkins, will be changed to new designs at the cost of £60 million.

The official explanation for the change — put out with craft and skill by the jet doctors — is that airlines that used to be chauvinistic must now be cosmopolitan. BA wants to suggest a modern rather than an imperial Britain. Sixty per cent of BA's passengers now come from outside Britain. So in order to flaunt the fact that this is a British airline that flies the whole world, its livery will show not just tartan, Welsh and English symbols, but contemporary art from Egypt, Japan, Holland and the Kalahari desert.

Such changes can be tricky. BA's launch of its new logo coincides with the start of trade union ballots on a possible strike. For a big company to change its image is often unpopular — both with staff and regular customers. Pepsi Cola's shift to blue won

wide publicity but has since floated off into the wide blue yonder. Critics wait to pounce.

So why drop the Union Jack, one of the most familiar designs in imagery, from official pageantry to unofficial trinkets? Change is the mantra. People who do not now fly British Airways may be encouraged to do so. Even the finest trade symbol grows stale, and to change it need be no more alarming than for an individual to change a frock or a tie. The vast amount of free publicity is welcome. The varying livery of aircraft appeals to the collecting and classificatory plane-spotting instincts. But, if the product is itself improved, there can be real point to the change.

The important news about BA is that it has become a better airline, more reliable and responsive to the needs and comfort of its passengers than it used to be. Its corporate logos by themselves are merely fine feathers on big machines flying upon the wings of the wind. But marketing devices and identity symbols mean big business if the product has the novelty of the logo. If the new designs prove unpopular, the marketing men will change them. Even if they are brilliant, they will still be changed in due course. Logos need constant refurbishment — like planes.

Conduct guide for devolution votes

From the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission on the Conduct of Referendums

Sir, In the recent House of Commons discussions of the Referendum (Scotland and Wales) Bill (reports, June 4, 5; letters, June 6) the main opposition was directed against the Government's decision to hold a consultative referendum before Parliament had been able to scrutinise, debate, and as necessary amend the devolution legislation. Little attention was paid to important aspects of the conduct of the two referendums.

It was the likely prospect of Scottish, Welsh and other referendums which led to the setting up in 1996 of the Commission on the Conduct of Referendums — an independent body which included representatives of the three main political parties.

The commission reviewed the experience of previous referendums and published a report last year (details, November 22) setting out guidelines designed to ensure that future referendums were conducted efficiently, fairly and consistently.

All the guidelines are relevant to the Scottish and Welsh referendums; but of particular importance, in the light of the House of Commons debate, are those relating to public information and access to the broadcast media. The commission recommended that: Every household should receive a publicly funded leaflet giving general information on the holding of the referendum and statements of the "yes" and "no" cases relating to the referendum question; and that

Broadcasters should be encouraged to provide a limited amount of airtime for setting out the arguments for each option in the referendum [with] balance ... maintained between the "yes" and "no" viewpoints rather than between the different political parties.

These arrangements will be particularly important in the conduct of a pre-legislative referendum. They would be complementary to the Government White Paper, which is expected to contain detailed proposals relating to devolution to Scotland and Wales. They would help to produce a high voting turnout — essential to the validity of a simple majority.

They would effectively contribute to the full understanding of the referendum questions needed by voters for "an all-Scotland debate on issues of real importance" and "a similar debate" in Wales, to which the Secretary of State for Scotland referred in concluding his introductory speech in the second-reading debate.

We hope that the House of Lords, when it shortly debates the Referendum Bill (provisionally planned for June 17), and subsequently the Government, will give careful consideration to arrangements for the conduct of the referendums on which will depend public acceptance of the legitimacy of their results.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK NARINE,
Chairman,
DAVID BUTLER,
Vice-Chairman,
Commission on the
Conduct of Referendums,
c/o Yew Tree, Chiswick,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.
June 9.

Royal Opera House

From Lord Chaddington, Chairman of the Royal Opera House

Sir, Contrary to your Diary report (June 7), I receive no payment from the Royal Opera House either as chairman or any other role I undertake. Indeed the constitution of the ROH precludes remuneration for any member of the board or other governing body. To my knowledge there has been only one exception to this: namely when an existing director, Sir Jeremy Isaacs, was also appointed general director.

The Royal Opera House relies on the freely given support of more than fifty individuals who sit on its various boards and advisory committees. Their dedication and hard work reflects their commitment to the Royal Opera House in particular and to the Arts in general.

Yours sincerely,
CHADDINGTON, Chairman,
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, WC2
June 9.

Policies, not cocktails

From Miss Laura Sandy

Sir, If I was a Conservative MP voting for a new leader, I would be unconvinced by the ability of any of the candidates to change the party.

If the candidates cannot recognise that holding cocktail parties (reports, June 10) as a method of securing votes reaffirms to the public that the party is out of touch and unable to innovate or provide a strong set of ethical values, they will not be able to bring the Tories back into the real world.

Any self-respecting Tory MP would have cut the cocktails and examined the policies.

Yours faithfully,
LAURA SANDY,
93a Charlwood Street, SW1.
June 10.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour plans for British industry

From Mr Michael Clark

Sir, I couldn't help a wry smile at the news (Business, June 5) that the DTI is determined to seek ways and means of improving the competitiveness of British industry by dint of collaborative meetings between firms, the trade unions and the Department. "Here we go again," said I.

As the chairman of one of the late, ill-fated "little Neddles", during Labour's last time round, I put together a committee of the most imaginative and dynamic members of the electronics industry, coupled with the splendid and unwavering Frank Chapple (of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union). We laboured hard and long — eventually coming up with a short list of practical recommendations designed to improve our efficiency and worldwide competitiveness.

I remain convinced that these recommendations would have stood the test of time but they were never implemented, for the simple reason that they cut the ground from under the feet of the permanent officials. They were eventually scuppered by the Treasury and the DTI itself.

The point of this letter is simply to warn the admirable Mrs Beckert that she would be well advised to think through the implementation stage now. Otherwise the work she is initiating, with all its exciting potential, will be totally wasted — simply because nothing whatsoever will actually happen.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL CLARK
(Deputy Chief Executive,
Plessey, 1970-87;

Chairman, Electronics Economic
Development Council, 1975-80;
Estate Office,
Braintree Park, Witham, Essex.
June 5.

From Mr Alan K. McHugh

Sir, Like Sir John Hoskyns (letter, June 6), I believe that the arguments for a minimum wage are being clouded by scaremongering based on the concept of "naturally occurring economic outcomes" and the supposed knock-on effect of wage rises.

Successive governments have imposed considerable restrictions on businesses that have affected their profitability — be it to do with hygiene, health and safety, embargoes, etc. All done in the name of progress and for the good of the nation, etc. How is setting a minimum wage any different?

There are many occupations that pay an insulting wage: some security firms pay £1 an hour, some clothing manufacturers pay £2 an hour. What is wrong with insisting that employees are paid a wage they can actually live on? If companies are forced to the wall as a result, what does it matter?

Most employers pay most of their employees more than the various proposed minimum wages. If some businesses are unable to compete with a slightly higher wage bill, I agree with Professor George Bain (report, June 3) that the question is whether those jobs would be better lost anyway".

Yours sincerely,
ALAN McHUGH (Proprietor,
The Leopard Hotel,
1 West Street,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.
June 6.

From Professor R. G. L. von Zugbach

Sir, The Prime Minister is right to resist the European Union's attempts to foist works councils upon British industry (report, June 5). Any manager who has worked in Europe will tell him how the waste of managerial time in dealing with bureaucratised employee interference in decision-making saps managerial vitality, creativity and energy.

Continental managers would gladly be shot of the system, which has its roots in long-redundant corporatist notions that have never been part of British culture. They would, however, gladly see it imposed upon British industry so that we too are equally handicapped.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
REGINALD von ZUGBACH,
The University of Paisley,
Department of Management
and Marketing,
Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 2BE.
June 5.

4. Control the expansion of air transport, which is estimated to contribute up to 30 per cent of total global-warming effects.

5. Stop misleading job claims by airports and their supporters. It is impossible, for instance, for Manchester Airport to justify its claims that building a second runway will create 50,000 jobs in the North West.

Will our new Government have the courage to stand up to short-term vested interests and declare a moratorium on airport development until a sustainable and integrated national aviation policy is formulated? We look forward to a reply, care of the Under-Sheriff of Cheshire.

Yours sincerely,
MATT BENSON,
DENISE BISHOP,
MUPPET DAVE HOWARTH,
Cakewhole Tunnel,
c/o Manchester Friends of the Earth,
6 Mount Street, Manchester.
June 8.

unethical to proceed with road trials of that system, even though it had been under serious consideration for implementation in Cambridge and elsewhere.

As General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Mr Blundell will be reassured to learn that our belief of the benefits of road-user charging is not undermined by this result. Even as non-economists, we share some of his optimism that efficiency gains might be achieved by increasing road-user costs, but we suggest that these might be better achieved by tolls, distance-based charges or even increased petrol tax than by time-based charges.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BONSALL,
IAN PALMER,
University of Leeds,
Institute for Transport Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT.
June 4.

Real opposition

From Mr Christopher Clifford

Sir, It was Iain Macleod who suggested in 1966 that: "In Parliament it should not only be the duty but the pleasure of the Opposition to oppose whenever they reasonably can."

Given the size of the present Government's parliamentary majority, their plan to provide Civil Service support to Her Majesty's Opposition, and perhaps also to the Liberal Democrats (report, June 9), is to be welcomed, particularly if Macleod's suggestion is to be followed.

The idea was aired by a former joint head of the Civil Service, Sir Douglas Wast, in his 1984 Reith Lectures.

What is crucial is that it is viewed as an experiment rather than a permanent institutional change, allowing any problems to be smoothed out after a trial period.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER CLIFFORD
(The Organisation of Central
Government Departments project),
Nuffield College, Oxford.
June 9.

Filling the gap

From Dr Simon Cocksedge

Sir, The gap year between school and university (article, Weekend, June 7) is actually a gap of 15 months (eg. July 1997 to September 1998).

I was encouraged to split mine into three, doing voluntary work for the first third, then working to finance travelling for the last third. I did exactly that, starting as a community-service volunteer with the homeless in Glasgow, then working in a foundry and a factory before travelling round the world. I have no doubt that I am a better general practitioner for having had that combination of experiences.

There would be numerous benefits to individuals, to voluntary organisations and those they serve, and to the wider community if universities and employers encouraged such tripartite gap "years" to become the rule rather than the exception.

Yours faithfully,
S. H. COCKSEdge,
Thornicroft Surgery,
Chapel-en-le-Frith,
High Peak, Derbyshire.
June 7.

What is crucial is that it is viewed as an experiment rather than a permanent institutional change, allowing any problems to be smoothed out after a trial period.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 10: Today is the Seventy Sixth
Birthday of The Duke of
Edinburgh.

His Excellency Mr. Risto
Nikoski and Mrs. Nikoski were
received in farewell audience by
the Queen this morning and took
leave upon His Excellency
relinquishing his appointment as
Ambassador from the former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Mr. Igor
Slobodnik was received in audi-
ence by Her Majesty and pre-
sented the Letters of Recall of his
predecessor and his own Letters of
Credence as Ambassador from the
Slovak Republic to the Court of St
James's.

Mrs. Slobodnik was also
received by the Queen.

Sir John Coles (Permanent
Under-Secretary of State for For-
eign and Commonwealth Affairs
was present.

Air Chief Marshal Sir John
Cheshire was received by Her
Majesty upon his appointment as
Commander-in-Chief.

AFNORTHWEST.

The Right Reverend John Taylor
was received by the Queen and
delivered up his Badge of Office
upon relinquishing his appoint-
ment as Lord High Almoner.

The Right Reverend Nigel
McClough (Bishop of Wakefield)
was received by Her Majesty upon
his appointment as Lord High
Almoner and received from the
Queen the Badge of Office.

The Rt Hon Anthony Blair MP
(Prime Minister and First Lord of
the Treasury) had an audience of
Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh,
Founder and Chairman, this
morning chaired a meeting and
gave a luncheon for the Trustees
of The Duke of Edinburgh's
Award International Association
at Afnorthwest.

His Royal Highness, Patron,
London Federation of Clubs for
Young People, this evening visited
the North London Muslim Com-
munity Club, 65 Cazenovia Road,
Stamford Hill, London N16, the
Pedro Club, 175 Rushmore Road,
Clapton, London E5, the
Kingsmead Community Trust
Youth Club, Kingsmead Estate,
London E9, the Concorde Boys
Club, Kingsmead Way,
Homerton, London E9, and the
Hackney Chinese Youth Club,
23-32 Ellington Road, London E8
and afterwards attended a recep-
tion at the offices of Herbert Smith
Solicitors, Exchange House, Prime
Street, London EC2.

By Command of The Queen,
Vice-Admiral Sir James
Weatherall (Marshal of the
Diplomatic Corps) called upon His
Excellency Saeor Washington
Ashwell at Braemar Lodge, Corn-
wall Gardens, London SW7, this
morning in order to bid farewell
upon His Excellency relinquishing
his appointment as Ambassador
from the Republic of Paraguay to
the Court of St James's.

Mr. Gerald McGrath (Deputy
Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow)
was present at Glasgow Airport
this afternoon upon the Departure
of His Excellency President Mary
Robinson and Mr. Nicholas Robi-
nson and bade them farewell on
behalf of Her Majesty.

Mrs. Christian Adams has suc-
ceeded the Lady Elton as Lady in
Waiting to the Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 10: The Duke of York this
afternoon attended the Royal War-
rior Holders Association's Annual
Luncheon at the London Hilton,
Park Lane, London W1, and pre-
sented awards to the 1997 winners
of The Queen Elizabeth

Scholarship.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 10: The Prince Edward,
Trustee, this morning attended a
meeting of the trustees of The
Duke of Edinburgh's Interna-
tional Foundation, followed by
luncheon, at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 10: The Princess Royal today
attended the Three Counties Agricul-
tural Society's Annual Show at
Malvern Showground, Worcester-
shire, and was received by Her
Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Her-
eford and Worcester (Sir Thomas
Dunne).

Her Royal Highness, President
of the British Olympic Associa-
tion and the Olympians, this
evening attended the Olympic
Pin Ceremony at Buckingham
Palace.

CLARENCE HOUSE

June 10: The Lady Angela Osvalds
has succeeded Mrs Michael Gor-
don-Lennox as Lady in Waiting to
Queen Elizabeth The Queen
Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 10: The Prince of Wales, Duke
of Cornwall, today visited Duchy
farms in Somerset.

KENSINGTON PALACE

June 10: The Princess Margaret,
Countess of Snowdon, the Light
Infantry Club, this afternoon
met members of the Royal Light
Infantry in Kensington Palace
State Apartments.

Her Royal Highness, President,
was present this evening at a
Concert and Dinner at St James's
Palace in aid of the Friends of the
Elderly.

KENSINGTON PALACE

June 10: The Duke of Gloucester,
Commissioner, English Heritage,
this morning joined the
Commissioners' Annual Tour to
Cornwall.

The Duchess of Gloucester
today visited Northamptonshire and
was received by Her Majesty's
Lord-Lieutenant (Sir Andrew
Bullock).

Her Royal Highness opened the
Retraining and Community Edu-
cation Centre, Sutton Road First
School, Mansfield, and afterwards
visited the Hope Centre, St Mar-
thas Church, Broxtowe Estate,
Nottingham.

Later the Duchess of Gloucester
paid the Prince of Wales a visit
at the Queen's Birthday Parade on
Horse Guards at 11 this Saturday
and will take the salute at a flypast
of RAF aircraft from the balcony of
Buckingham Palace at 1.

The Queen and the Duke of
Edinburgh, and other members of
the Royal Family will attend the
Royal Pageant of the Horse on
Sunday, July 5, at Windsor Great
Park, chairman, presided.

Birthdays today

Mr. Jean Alesi, racing driver, 33;

Mr. Tony Alcock, bowler, 42; Miss

Diana Arnfield, painter, 77; Mr

John Aspinall, founder, Howlets

and Port Lympne Zoo Parks, 71;

Mr. James Bostock, painter and

engraver, 30; the Rev Dr Richard A

Burridge, Dean, King's College

London, 42; Mr. Michael

Cacoyannis, film director, 75; Lord

Cameron of Lochbroom, 66; Miss

Cynthia Cooper, former Matron-in-

Chief, QARNNS, 78; M. Jacques

Cousteau, marine explorer, 87; Mr

John Dyson, cricketer, 43; Lord

Justice Evans, 63; Sir Marcus Fox

former MP, 70; Mr. Abol Fugard,

actor and playwright, 65; Sir

Robert Gerken, former chairman,

Plymouth Development Corpora-

tion, 65; Dame Beryl Grey, prima

ballerina, 70; Mr. J. Dundas

Hamilton, former chairman,

Wales City of London Properties,

78; Mrs. Rachael Heyhoe-Flint,

cricketer, 58; Mr. Hugh Laurie,

former president, Washington

National Gallery of Art, 90; Mr.

Michael Meyer, writer, 76; Mrs

Jennifer Pitman, racehorse train-

er; Sir David Quiller, actor, 33; the

Hon. Sir Timothy Sargent, for-

mer MP, 85; Mr. John S. Sargent,

former director, 56; Mr. Jackie

Stewart, former racing driver, 58;

Mr. Richard Todd, actor, 78; Sir

Gerard Vaughan, former MP, 74;

Mr. Gene Wilder, actor, 62; Gen-

eral Sir Michael Wilkes, 57.

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (UK)

Mr. Rory Bremner was the guest
of honour at a luncheon of the
American Chamber of Commerce (UK)

held yesterday at the Café Royal.
Sir Brian Goswell, presi-

dent, was in the chair.

FIRST DAY COVER CLUB

Mr. Michael Fopp, Director of the
RAF Museum, Hendon, was the
guest speaker at a luncheon of the
First Day Cover Club at the Royal

Aeronautical Society yesterday to
mark the publication of the special

stamps on Archibald of the Air. Mr.

Keith McDowell presided. Among

those present were:

Lord Graham of Edmonton, Baroness

Blatch, Sir Sydney

Franklin, Baroness

McDowell, Mr. Paul Budd,

Mr. Geoffrey Goodman, Mr.

David Harris and Mr. Brian Hord.

DINNERS

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

Dr. Robert Buckman delivered the
Stevens Lecture for the Royal Society
last night at Wimpole Street. At a dinner held
afterwards, Mr. P. H. Schurr, vice-
president of the society, accompanied
the Queen, who was in the company of

Mr. and Mrs. William Stevens and
Mr. and Mrs. Clegg.

UNITED OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY CLUB

Dr. Peter van der Merwe of the
National Maritime Museum will
attend the fifteenth anniversary of
the Institute of Advanced Legal
Studies, Charles Clore House, 17

Russell Square, at 20.00.

In the evening, as Patron,

Association of Combined Youth

Clubs, the Princess Royal will visit

the New Eltham Methodist Youth

and Community Centre, 433

Fossey Road, London SE9 at 20.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron, the

Royal College of Anaesthetists, will

be formally installed as Patron of

the college at the Diplomates

ceremony at Logan Hall, Institute

of Education, 20 Bedford Way, at

10.30 and afterwards at the college.

RUSSELL SQUARE

Later, Her Royal Highness, as

Patron of the Northern Ballet

Theatre, will attend a gala perfor-

mance of *Dracula* at the Grand

Theatre, Leeds at 20.30.

The Duke of Kent will attend a

private view of the Grosvenor

House Art and Antiques Fair, Park

Lane, at 20.30.

EDINBURGH

On 7th June 1997, peacefully

after a long illness, Mr. John

Currie, aged 90, of 24

Checkendon, Oxon, a son

Duncan Scott. A brother for

Sarah, Emma and Hamish

HILL-SANGER - On June 7th in

Luton (Wessex), a son, John

and a daughter, Linda

Ursula (née Rogers) and

Piers, a beautiful daughter,

Lucia, a sister for Eleanor.

GRANT - On 7th June 1997,

peacefully after a long illness,

Mr. John Grant, aged 91, of

22 Cawdron Lane, Winchester,

Hampshire. A son, Andrew

Grant, and a daughter, Linda

Grant, a son, John, and a

daughter, Linda, a son, John,

and a daughter, Linda, a son,

John, and a daughter, Linda.

DAVIES - On 7th June 1997,

peacefully after a long illness,

Mr. John Davies, aged 84, of

OBITUARIES

ROBERT SERBER

Robert Serber, physicist, died in New York on June 1 aged 88. He was born in Philadelphia on March 14, 1909.

When recruited to build the atom bomb arrived at Los Alamos in April 1943, they were given a crash course in nuclear physics by Robert Serber. He was not a great lecturer, slight, dry, and not given to dramatics. But he held his audience spellbound. "The object of the programme," he told them, "is to produce a military weapon in the form of a bomb in which the energy is released by a fast neutron chain reaction in one or more of the materials known to sustain nuclear fission."

Serber was in a perfect position to deliver the five lectures, taken down and mimeographed as *The Los Alamos Primer*. The previous year he had attended the Berkeley Summer School organised by J. Robert Oppenheimer to study the feasibility of the weapon. Joining Oppenheimer in April 1942, Serber and his wife moved into a room over the Oppenheimer's garage. Starting with a number of British documents on bomb design which Serber described as "rudimentary but quite helpful in getting us started", the two worked for two months and then summoned a group of theorists for further discussion. Quickly they realised that weapon was feasible and that its success depended only on getting the materials.

Serber's key role had arisen largely by accident. He had earned a bachelor's degree at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1930, and his PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1934, when jobs were scarce. He was heading East to Princeton for further study when he decided to stop at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor to listen to a lecture by Oppenheimer. This so fascinated him that he opted to go West, became a student of Oppenheimer's and later a friend.

In March 1943 Serber and his wife Charlotte, who had been appointed librarian at



Serber, second from right, and members of the nuclear bomb squad in the Marianas, 1948

Los Alamos, drove from California to New Mexico. Santa Fe was alive with rumours of what was going on, and to counter them Oppenheimer decided to send Charlotte Serber and a male colleague, John Manley, into town to spread the false rumour that the team had been assembled to build an electric rocket. Serber went too, and they first headed for the cocktail lounge at La Fonda Hotel. They sat at a table and talked loudly about electric rockets but nobody took the slightest notice. Eventually they moved to another bar, where Serber in frustration finally grabbed a drink by the lapels and shook him. "Do you know what we're doing at Los Alamos?" he demanded. "We're building an electric rocket!" But the man was so drunk that he failed to spread the message.

Serber's job at the laboratory was to head the bomb-design theory group. During his first lecture, the sound of carpenters hammering away in the room above nearly drowned his words, and at one point a leg appeared through a

plasterboard ceiling. Oppenheimer sent Manley to tell Serber not to use the word bomb, but to say something neutral like "gadget". Thereafter that is how the bomb was invariably described.

He led the design of Little Boy, the uranium bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Before that, he had observed and recorded the successful "Trinity" test at Alamogordo, New Mexico, on July 16, 1945, standing about 20 miles away. "The grandeur and magnitude of the phenomenon were completely breathtaking," he said. He then travelled to Tinian Island in the Marianas to help in assembling Little Boy. With the aid of a few quick calculations, he was able to assure Colonel Paul Tibbets, who was to fly the B29 aircraft that would drop the bomb, that both he and it would survive the explosion.

He planned to fly on the Nagasaki mission on August 9, in which a plutonium device was dropped, but a final check showed that he had no parachute, and he was dropped at

the end of the runway. "That was truly idiotic," he later remarked. "The mission of the plane was to take pictures and I was the only one on board who knew how to run the camera." But little more than a week later he was on the ground at both Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the British scientist William Penney, measuring radiation levels and the shadows burnt into walls by the explosion.

After the war he became a professor at Berkeley, moving to Columbia in 1951. Like his mentor Oppenheimer, he was affected by the witch-hunt for communist sympathisers, first being cleared in 1948 but later, in 1952, denied security clearance to travel to a conference in Japan. This was after Edward Teller, "father" of the American H-Bomb, had told the FBI that Oppenheimer, Serber, and Philip Morrison, were considered "the most extreme leftists" among physicists.

Although angry enough to refuse to serve on a panel put together by Teller to advise the Pentagon about the "super" —

the hydrogen bomb — Serber retained his sense of humour. He later remarked: "On Edward Teller's blackboard at Los Alamos I once saw a list of weapons — ideas for weapons — with their abilities and properties displayed. For the last one on the list, the largest, the method of delivery was listed as 'backyard'. Since that particular design would probably kill everyone on Earth, there was no use carting it elsewhere."

At Columbia, he became chairman of the physics department. His forte was in building bridges between theory and experiment. He was president of the American Physical Society in 1971, and won the J. Robert Oppenheimer Prize for Physics in 1972, retiring in 1978. His memoirs are due for publication by Columbia University Press in March next year.

Serber's first wife Charlotte, the only woman head of a division at Los Alamos during the war, died in 1967. He married again in 1979 and is survived by his second wife Fiona and two sons.

Albert Rosen, conductor, died in Dublin on May 23 aged 73. He was born in Vienna on February 14, 1924.

ALBERT ROSEN made an enormous contribution to musical life in Ireland. A charismatic and versatile conductor, he found regular engagements all over the world, from London to Sydney, San Diego to Prague. But he returned again and again to Dublin, where for almost thirty years he was associated with the Radio Eireann (now the National) Symphony Orchestra, and to the annual opera festival in Wexford, where he conducted more often than anyone else. It was in Dublin, where he was due to conduct a concert and begin a recording session of Czech music, that he died.

Albert Rosen was born into an Austrian-Czech family that was not especially musical; his father was a lawyer. Rosen's talents were slow to emerge. He had to be persuaded to audition for the Vienna Academy and was surprised to be accepted. Once there, however, he made rapid progress, studying piano and composition under Joseph Marx, and conducting with Hans Swarowsky. Later he moved to Prague, where he was among the explosion of musical talent that included Rafael Kubelik, Vaclav Neumann and Karel Ancerl.

He was engaged by the Plisic Opera on graduation, before moving back to Prague as resident conductor at the Opera in 1960; he became director of the Metamora Opera there in 1965.

It was in that year that he came to Ireland to conduct Massenet's *Don Quichotte*, and he was back in 1966 for Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia*. This led to engagements with the Radio Eireann Symphony Orchestra and to his appointment as its principal conductor in 1968, a post he held until 1981 when he became principal guest conductor. For his 70th birthday, he was honoured with the unique distinction of being created conductor laureate to Radio Telefis Eireann.

He returned many times to the annual Wexford Festival, conducting 18 operas there in all, more than any other

ALBERT ROSEN



conductor. Outstanding among them were a passionate *Kajsa Kabanova* (1972), a spine-chilling *Turn of the Screw* (1976) and a sumptuous *Königskinder* (1986). He also took charge of two notable *Marschner* revivals, *Hans Heiling* (1983) and *Der Templer und die Jüdin* (1989). His final appearance at the festival was for the *Leoncavallo La Bohème* in 1994.

Rosen was highly skilful at modifying big Romantic scores so that they could be played by a 40-person orchestra — all that would fit into Wexford's tiny pit. His charismatic direction covered up any deficiency in orchestral numbers.

He also was frequently engaged by the Dublin Grand Opera Society (now Opera Ireland), starting with *Die Fledermaus* in 1969, and he directed the Irish premiere of *Jenifa* for them in 1973. His ebullient musicality in a modern-dress *Cost fan Tutte* (1983 and 1984) helped to make it one of the company's finest creations.

Rosen's talents were also appreciated around the world. His many international opera credits included *Jenifa* with the San Francisco Opera, *The Bartered Bride* with Scottish Opera, *Martini's The Greek Passion* in Paris, *Rusalka* in San Diego and *Christmas Eve* with the English National Opera.

In 1982 he was appointed chief conductor of the Western

Australia Symphony Orchestra in Perth and was later made principal conductor of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in Adelaide. He made frequent visits to Australia over the past 15 years.

His orchestral career was as distinguished as his operatic one. He excelled in the Romantic repertoire. Among his greatest achievements was a particularly powerful and revelatory interpretation of *Suk's "Asreal" Symphony* with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland in 1993. His ability to mould the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland was also remarkable.

Rosen usually hid his immense talents under a lively, engaging, bon viveur's personality. Once he was on the podium, however, he was transformed; the charm remained, and he was always sympathetic to the needs of musicians and singers, but the precise beat and the imaginative direction came to the fore.

He was extremely versatile. There are stories of distraught managers ringing him on the morning of a concert of complex music when the intended conductor had gone ill; Rosen would be in the hall almost immediately, directing the score from sight as though he had been preparing it all along.

Albert Rosen was twice married and twice divorced. He is survived by the daughter of his first marriage and the son of his second.

ANTHONY CLARK

Anthony John Clark, archaeologist, died of cancer on June 3 aged 67. He was born on March 22, 1930.

WITH the death of Tony Clark, Britain has lost one of the pioneers in the application of geoprospection in archaeo-

logy — and one of its friendliest archaeologists. Formerly employed in the laboratories of the instrument section of the Distillers Company, he joined the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of the Environment (now English Heritage) in 1967 and so became the first of surveying archaeologists

full-time professional archaeo-geophysicist in Britain. However, his interest in geophysics, beginning with the resistivity method, went back even earlier. Learning of the work of Professor Richard Atkinson, who applied a megger earth tester in the task of surveying archaeological

remains at Dorchester-on-Thames, he decided to use advances in electronics, notably the development of transistors, to produce a system that was more compact, lower in power consumption, and quicker to use.

The result was the Martin Clark resistivity meter, which

he invented in 1956 in collaboration with a colleague, John Martin. Soon he had opportunities to test the new equipment when, in 1957, he conducted a resistivity survey of the then recently discovered Roman town of Cunetio in Wiltshire, and found he was readily able to detect the foundations of the town wall.

With his appointment to the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, Tony Clark was able to extend his scope. He did detailed research on the theoretical principles of the resistivity method, including electrode configuration, and was awarded a PhD from Southampton University for this research. More important, his response to his increased scope was to be of great benefit not only to the work of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory but also to archaeology at large.

Thus he quickly seized on the computer as an aid to the processing of geophysical data, ultimately taking computers into the field. He also brought into commission equipment of the magnetometer type so as to be able to employ the magnetic properties of the soil as an aid to the detection of buried archaeological remains. More recently, he has strongly advocated the use of magnetic susceptibility as a means of detecting archaeological remains and has demonstrated its use, for instance, in determining where hearths had been in use.



He did not, however, restrict himself entirely to geoprospection, for he was also interested in dating methods. He was particularly concerned with magnetic dating, whereby iron oxides present in clay become demagnetised when heated in the Earth's magnetic field and remagnetised on cooling. Thus the direction of the Earth's field at the time of heating (of pottery kiln or hearth) can be determined. Clark's contribution to this method came from his construction of the British calibration curve essential in the conversion of magnetic readings into corresponding years.

Despite all his professional eminence, Clark was never entirely at home in the world of officialdom. He always maintained the slightly subversive air of the true inventor, and was at his happiest and most fulfilled when working with local societies and amateur archaeologists.

He was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1961, and served on its council and that of the Royal Archaeological Institute, as well as playing an active role in the Surrey Archaeological Society. His wife Una predeceased him but he is survived by their two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Horizons shrink at Bush House as staff are redeployed

Why the BBC wants the best of both worlds

Like a listed building which developers are not allowed to tear down, the BBC World Service is being dismantled from within. The facade and some rooms at the back remain, but the heart of the place has been torn out and replaced with cubicles, electronic cables and strip lighting.

Remember the uproar a year ago when the BBC announced that it was going to put the World Service under the arm of its corporate directorate, BBC Worldwide and reassess the making of the World Service's English-language radio programmes to another central directorate, BBC Production?

Save the BBC World Service campaigns sprang up swiftly. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office set up a working group to ensure that no damage was being done to what has traditionally been a separate and admired institution within the BBC, paid for by direct grant out of tax funds, not by licence fees.

This working group, after hearing from the BBC's chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, and its Director-General, John Birt, accepted that the merging of functions was necessary for efficiency but that the World Service's independence would survive. The group did extract one concession. To preserve the cross-fertilisation of ideas and outlook enjoyed by the World Service's newsroom, English-language and foreign-language journalists would continue to work side by side.

But what about the rest? When the working group reconvenes this October, it will find that the World Service as a coherent programme-producing service has been broken up. For example, its science programmes are now made under the eye of the BBC Science Unit and arts programmes by BBC Arts. Last week, the World Service's drama department moved out of Bush House in The Strand to Broadcasting House. World Service staff believe that, rather than being considered expert in preparing programmes for a worldwide audience whose first language is mostly not English, they are now considered as "human resources" to be redeployed throughout the BBC. The numbers listed as working for the World Service have been reduced from 2,532 to 1,636.

Bringing producers of certain programme subjects together sounds efficient unless you consider that the two faces of the BBC are broadcasting to two antithetical audiences, paid for in different ways. The BBC insists that the two sources of funding will not be confused. Maybe clever accountants and computers can calculate fractions of salaries for allocation to different BBC budgets. But

this service will not come cheap. Nor will the extra engineering necessary to link Broadcasting and Bush houses.

At Bush House, morale has never been so low. Many World Service staff have no idea what their future is. They take little heart from the supposed wider horizons in the BBC because World Service employees, news apart, have not been getting the top jobs when genres merge.

Bitterness emerged this spring when the Director-General insisted that the World Service bear its share of the 5 per cent "efficiency savings" being imposed on the rest of the BBC. World Service staff had thought their Foreign Office money was ring-fenced, especially because of reduced funding in recent years. The Foreign Office rewarded them by restoring £5 million to their grant (of £152.4 million) for 1997-98. Then BBC domestic hacked some back for itself.

If the World Service's remaining staff had any faith left in their managing director, Sam Younger, whom many felt should have resigned last year when the restructuring was imposed without him even being consulted, it is disappearing fast.

The corporate BBC's motive for tucking the respected World Service within the larger BBC is not hard to find. The last Government put the BBC under great pressure to turn itself into a global media giant. How much more global an enterprise the BBC looks if it can boast that its customers are not just the 22 million British households who finance it through licence fees but the 143 million worldwide who listen in, courtesy of the Foreign Office.

Tony Hall, the chairman of BBC News, can now boast that he heads the largest news-gathering organisation in the world, formed "to provide its news to the UK and to the world".

But the listener in Lesotho is not the same as the viewer in Leeds. The danger to them both is the same homogenisation. Efficiency will dictate that the BBC's international programmes will be made in re-usable bits, eliminating the sharp details that point a story either at a domestic or a foreign audience. One sign of this is that John Simpson, the BBC's foreign affairs editor, is to be rechristened world editor.

It is too late for the new Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, to put the World Service back together again. But he can ask by what mechanism — and at what cost — the BBC is keeping its licence-fee activities separate from those paid for by the Foreign Office grant, and how it is respecting the distinct audiences that these two sources represent.

Test Match Special is 40 years old. Peter Foster asks whether sports broadcasting is what it used to be

In the 50 or so years since broadcasters began televising sport events a few men have become known as "The Voice" of their sport. Every village cricketer will have borrowed John Arlott's burly Hampshire burr to describe the winning six he smote into the duck pond, every boy-racer that ever put his foot to the floor will have the high-octane wail of Murray Walker screaming in his ears and golfers will replay their rounds, this chip, that missed putt, in the whimsical style of Peter Alliss. In their own way, these men (and we include Dan Maskell, Brian Johnston and Peter O'Sullivan) deserve to be remembered as poets of their time.

Sport needs its poets. For most people today, true drama is experienced not at Stratford or the Barbican but at Wembley or Lord's. The faces of Middlesbrough supporters at the Cup Final this year were drained by the tragic fortunes of their team. Sport is one of the few areas where we still suspend our disbelief and empathise wholeheartedly with players acting out the drama. Step back for a moment and the illusion is shattered; the ridiculousness of grown men chasing after a round object becomes plain.

Commentators are part of the illusion. Their art is to articulate, often with few words, the drama before them. But the great names mentioned here were masters of an art that is in grave danger of being forgotten. In the past ten years televised sport has undergone great change as technology has raised the expectations of viewers.

More and more former players who expressed themselves so gracefully with bat or ball are taking over at the microphone and failing to reproduce the immaculate timing, sense of occasion and rapport with spectators that came to them instinctively as players.

Jan Botham, Bob Willis, Gary Lineker, Virginia Wade and Sue Barker are just some of the sporting achievers whose broadcasting skills are probably not matched by their celebrity status. The monotony of their voices and the often inane nature of their speculations do not make them ideal viewing companions. Perhaps we should not be surprised: there is no logical sportsman who has spent most of their adult lives perfecting a small number of physical actions should make good broadcasters, able

to evoke the drama of sport at the highest level. The professional sportsman or woman who has played in uncounted Open Championships or Cup Finals can sometimes find it hard to appreciate and articulate the absurd reverence with which we amateurs approach such occasions.

Technology has had its part to play in the changing face of sports broadcasting. Miniature cameras inserted in everything from cricket stump to a driver's wing mirror bring the viewer ever closer to the action, allowing sporting performances to be analysed in more and more detail. Alan Hansen picks open Middlesbrough's defensive frailties. Geoffrey Boycott isolates the finest flaws in a batsman's technique and the Tiger Woods swing is analysed in super-slo-mo.

Only the most hard-bitten Luddite would argue that these innovations have not contributed something to sports coverage but in themselves they are not enough to convey to TV viewers the atmosphere of a great sporting occasion. BSkyB has revolutionised sports coverage through technical innovation, but its coverage of last month's one-day cricket interna-

tional showed that magnificent foot-age is not enough. No amount of award-winning camera angle can capture the inipid drone of Willis and Botham.

Teamwork between a professional broadcaster and a former player often produces better results. Murray Walker and Martin Brundle, David Coleman and Brendan Foster, John Motson and Trevor Brooking, Brian Johnston and Trevor Bailey are among the pairings that have worked brilliantly over the years. When Michael Schumacher spins off on the last lap of a Grand Prix, Murray Walker's electrifying cry of "Schumacher! Schumacher! Our out OUT!" captures the drama of the moment.

Brundle to opine on brake failures, tyre wear and race strategy. Similarly, when an innings became becalmed on the third day of a Test match, it was Brian Johnston whose musings on a startled pigeon or the passing of the No 9 bus were a perfect foil for Bailey's dry but apposite analysis.

Former sportsmen do not always

make poor broadcasters. Richie Benaud, possibly the finest cricket broadcaster alive today, captained Australia. He has succeeded in crossing the dividing line between pundit and commentator and is now often asked by young fans whether he ever played cricket. Benaud's success may have something to do with his training as a court reporter in Australia and on a BBC broadcasting course. And there are plenty of other sportsmen who have completed the transition from player to broadcaster: men such as Michael Holding, Ian Chappell, Dan Maskell, Tony Lewis and Peter Alliss. Of today's crop Mark Nicholas, a former Hampshire cricketer, is looking promising at Sky, while the jury is still out on the sometimes too-stilted David Gower.

Broadcasting companies are losing sight of the variety and freshness an outsider's voice brings. They should not be content to fill their commentary boxes with former players wanting a retirement job but must search further afield for those who can articulate what sport means to people. It is not just cricket fans who listen to Radio 4's *Test Match Special*, which has just celebrated its 40th anniversary, and it was not just football fans who sensed the national thrill of Euro '96. Sports broadcasting must look to bring on new broadcasting talent.

Where are sport's new poets?



Goodbye, cricket? *Test Match Special* is 40 years old. Peter Foster asks whether sports broadcasting is what it used to be

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Will Hutton, the Editor, says he is satisfied — but *The Observer*, despite its neo-brutalist front pages, "has appeared more like a house journal than a furnace of ideas"

It was one of those front-page ideas that seem inspired at the time, but turn out a bit less convincing in print. *The Observer* led its front page on Sunday with a bunch of pictures headlined, "Suddenly We're a Nation of Winners. Howzat? Triumphs in cricket, rugby and horse-racing, as well as the Spice Girls and Tony Blair, meant that Britain was 'high on natural Prozac'..."

Leaving aside the tabloid presentation, it was an idea that should have been spiked before it saw the light of day. The real news on Sunday was that the Test match was on a knife-edge, the British Lions had been beaten in South Africa, and the Derby favourites had flopped — all stories duly headlined in the sports section. As for the Spice Girls and Blair, well, they are always with us.

It's unfair to pick on one issue to criticise a newspaper — like damning a biography because it has got one date wrong. But there is a crisis of sorts at *The Observer*, and that front page is as good an illustration of it as anything. It's a crisis of editorial direction, news content and presentation, to say nothing of financial losses. Apart from that, as the doctor said, everything seems fine. Its Editor, Will Hutton, proclaims himself satisfied with progress; its new chairman, Robert Gavron, has brought business rigour to bear; last month's circulation results show a 5.9 per cent increase over April's, and a stable year-on-year figure.

Behind the statistics, however, things are less happy. Sales are still well below 500,000, once considered a rock-bottom figure for a paper that used to chase *The Sunday Times*. It has lost ground to *The Sunday Telegraph*, and is competing for survival with the *Independent on Sunday*. Its losses are more than £1 million, and its relationship with its sister paper, *The Guardian*, remains uneasy, not to say fraught. What was once seen as a marriage made in heaven between two liberal papers has gone through some rocky patches, with constant squabbles over the housekeeping money.

Is The Observer in Blair's pocket?

The once forceful Sunday newspaper needs to calm down and remember its readers, says Magnus Linklater

The Guardian feels held back by its loss-making partner; *The Observer* resents the daily paper's interference, but realises that it could never survive without it. The nagging question of whether it should merge with the *Independent on Sunday* refuses to go away. As an old *Observer* hand, I have to admit that there is a certain familiarity about these complaints. Ritual comparisons with the golden era of David Astor were made then, and are still being made by people who cannot for the life of them remember what the Astor paper was really like, and have conveniently forgotten the losses which forced its sale in the first place.

The Scott Trust, which owns both papers, believes the worst is over. With profits of the order of £25 million, even after *The Observer's* losses are taken into account, it believes the pressure is off. Rumours of a possible sale are dismissed as "totally untrue". The trust remains committed to the paper, and points out that *The Guardian* itself is profitable. Some of its members, however, are less sanguine. The group depends on healthy results from the *Manchester Evening News* and its sister papers, the magazine *Autotrader* and the local Surrey papers, which have in the past been profitable. The worry is that these are diminishing assets in the long run and some members of the trust question whether *The Guardian*, which is hungry for investment,

can expand while *The Observer* is draining the profits.

A strong *Guardian* faction still believes the acquisition of *The Observer* was a mistake and would welcome the chance of getting rid of it. For the time being their voice has been silenced, but they have not changed their views.

The issue right now, however, is of a different order. *The Observer* has reinvented itself as "The paper for the new Era", with a new masthead and design, and a new set of priorities not just in tune with new Labour, but actually speaking its lines. The intention is that it should be on the inside track of the Blair revolution, breaking the news that other Sundays cannot reach, keeping its readers one step ahead as the Government's radical agenda unfolds.

More than that, it sees itself as the mentor of this new party of ideas. That pre-election picture of Hutton, following Blair into his Islington house, said it all: here was the master, it implied, and here was the voice — which was not made clear. Hutton, perhaps, was to be Ben Bradlee to Blair's JFK, a friend at court, but more than that, his ideologue. His bestseller, *The State We're In*, would be the blueprint for the new Britain.

Things haven't quite worked out that way. The truth is that this

Government, like all others, has acquired a momentum of its own, and *The Observer*, far from finding itself at the leading edge, has been left bubbling in its wake. Ever since the heady aftermath of the election (and I thought its May 4 headline "Goodbye, xenophobia" was truly memorable), it has appeared more like a house journal than a furnace of ideas.

In any event, no newspaper should be that close to the Government — the old analogy of dogs and lamp-posts comes to mind. It is high time *The Observer* turned nasty. At the same time, it needs to remember its audience. That neo-brutalist front page must be anathema to the loyal readers who have stuck with the paper through thick and thin, and who remember a certain elegance of design. It uses the pile-driver effect to draw the eye rather than inviting the reader into the page. It may suit a newspaper like *The Sun*, but it is quite alien to a quality broadsheet.

Just as well, perhaps, that Jocelyn Targert, the deputy editor responsible, has so far held off the arts pages, once a jewel in *The Observer's* crown. Here the problem is one of neglect. Critics such as Michael Coveney, Andrew Porter and Will Self have gone, and though some good writers such as Nick Gereard and Kate Kellaway have been recruited, the arts section seems to have lost contact with the rest of the paper. It requires the enthusiasm and the interest of the editor if it is to regain its authority. It is not, I hope, just nostalgia to say that in the days of Terry Kilmartin, the paper's legendary arts editor, his schedule was at least as important as that of the news pages.

The paper still has great strengths, and a Blair Government does offer new challenges. But it needs to remember that it is more important to be a good newspaper than to be the paper of the new era. Bradlee once wrote that you need only a couple of great ideas to make a career. For *The Observer*, one of them could be to calm down, stop taking the new Labour Prozac, and remember who it is really there for — the readers.

Margaret Thatcher would have been proud of schools are facing widespread redundancies (an inconvenient fact reported in *The Guardian*) and teachers are landed with a task force headed by their Number One hate figure, Chris Woodhead. Economic policy, as set out by Gordon Brown, seems to have little or nothing to do with the world as seen from the editor's office.

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Labour win boosts broadsheet sales

WITH THE exception of *The Daily Telegraph*, sales of all daily and Sunday broadsheets increased last month after the election of the Labour Government. The Blair effect was remarkable, particularly for the papers that devoted most space to the daily string of announcements from Downing Street.

April was different. As the election ground on, sales fell — by only 40,000 for the broadsheets, but altogether by 250,000. The exceptions were *The Sunday Telegraph* (boosted by a cheap subscription scheme), *The Observer* (supported by regional price-cutting), *The Mirror* (boosted by an air fares promotion) and the *Daily Mail*.

Once Blair was elected, sales lifted as readers started buying newspapers to learn about the new Government, with *The Times* recording the highest increase of 37,200. The two broadsheets most sympathetic to Labour also recorded significant rises, with *The Guardian* up by 28,500 (7 per cent) and *The Independent* by 13,000 (5 per cent). Among the broadsheets only *The Daily Telegraph*, the paper least sympathetic to Blair, lost sales over April.

The same trend occurred on Sundays with *The Observer* up nearly 27,000 and *The Sunday Times* 21,400. Overall sales of broadsheets were up in April by almost 90,000 daily, and 52,000 on Sunday. The same trend is showing

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

over the longer term. Year-on-year in May the mass-market tabloids were down by 290,000 and the Sundays by 480,000. Against that, sales of the five daily broadsheets were up by 206,500 and the four Sundays by 306,400.

The totals are inflated by a 36 per cent sales increase for *The Sunday Telegraph* and an 8 per cent increase of

85,000 for *The Daily Telegraph*.

For the weekday paper, year-on-year sales have been boosted by more than 90,000 by a cheap subscription offer and bulk sales (where the paper is given away) of 40,000. Sales at the full cover price are 1,001,363.

On Sunday sales were boosted by 94,000 from the subscription offer and 31,800

from bulk sales. Sales at the full price were 784,000.

Both the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday* maintain their success and there are signs that *The Express* may at last have bottomed out on weekdays, although the Sunday edition continues to slide. Among the broadsheets only *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday* are down year on year.

The star performers over the past year are *The Times* (up 11.8 per cent), *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Guardian*, with *The Sunday Times* steaming serenely along at more than 13 million — up by 57,000 on a year ago.

BATTLE FOR SALES: MAY 1997

	Avg daily sale	Compared to Apr '97	Compared to May '96
DAILIES			
Sun.	3,819,908	-22,468 -0.58	-189,115 -4.72
Mirror	2,361,383	-28,825 -1.21	-92,544 -3.77
Express	1,220,439	+384 +0.03	-9,240 -0.75
Mail	2,153,888	+2,681 +0.12	+63,880 +3.06
Star	654,658	+5,843 +1.08	-25,680 -3.78
Times	756,535	+37,227 +5.18	+80,113 +11.84
Telegraph	1,152,789	-1,142 -0.10	+85,157 +8.13
Guardian	429,101	+28,594 +7.14	+33,655 +8.51
Independent	283,707	+13,158 +5.28	-9,223 -3.49
FT	319,400	+12,071 +3.93	+17,134 +5.67
Total	13,802,767	+45,844 +0.33	-74,532 -0.54
Source: ABC			
SUNDAYS			
Now	4,429,387	+64,365 +1.47	-133,288 -2.92
People	1,908,583	-69,165 -3.50	-148,768 -7.23
Mirror	2,211,527	-26,030 -1.16	-198,598 -8.24
Express	1,153,573	-5,457 -0.47	-75,078 -6.11
Mail	2,129,376	+16,959 +0.80	+1,654 +0.09
Times	1,331,858	+21,419 +1.63	+57,015 +4.47
Telegraph	480,426	+26,904 +5.93	+26,041 +5.73
Observer	910,803	+1,391 +0.15	+243,832 +26.56
Independent	278,465	+2,789 +1.02	-20,482 -6.85
Total	15,121,891	+29,842 +0.20	-221,317 -1.44



Readers were turned on by Tony Blair's election victory

JUSTIN LEIGHTON

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Knickers in twist over bra

of copyright, which it wasn't — it was more a parody. Anyway there has now been a very amicable solution. We have donated £10,000 to the Carlton Athletic charity."

Lion's share

A RIPPLE of excitement fluttered around the table of 12 Fleet Street hacks invited to Cape Town last week for the opening of the Table Bay Hotel by Nelson Mandela.



Mandela: invitation

After a many bottle lunch, the emotional group were asked whether they would now like to see the lions. Imagining themselves on a leisurely safari in the African sunshine they readily accepted. Later that afternoon they found themselves among 30,000 screaming Afrikaners watching the Lions play rugby against Western Cape Province.

Good spot

A DINKY plan by Richard Branson to copy artwork from the anti-heroin film *Trainspotting* to promote his new train service ran into problems. When lawyers discovered the style of

It could be who?
WHEN not busy counting their money, Carnetol directors have set about discovering the identity of the mole who leaked details of their monster pay rises to *Marketing* magazine. Staff are being grilled one by one by a security team who at least cannot be accused of not taking the job seriously. One is a former employee of Scotland Yard and other learnt his trade with the Midlands Crime Squad.

Take a memo

STAFF at Bush House, home of the BBC's grand old dame the World Service, have at last found a use for the avalanche of Birtian memos sent to them over the months. An outbreak of mice has caused much shrieking and chair jumping among more timid workers in the building. But the problem has been resolved. Foreign correspondents, accustomed to far more terrifying spectacles than a few fluffy rodents, have plugged the mouse holes with paper. John Birt's rather lengthy memos have proved a perfect fit.

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NEW FROM ORANGE PRIZE-WINNER HELEN DUNMORE

Talking to the Dead



Love of Fat Men



ALSO AVAILABLE: ZENNOR IN DARKNESS, BURNING BRIGHT, A SPELL OF WINTER

British group sets out terms of biotech merger with Swedes

Amersham to create world leader

By PAUL DURMAN

AMERSHAM International claims it will create the world's largest biotechnology supply business when it merges its life science arm with Pharmacia Biotech, based in Sweden.

Setting out the terms of the deal, first leaked two weeks ago, Amersham said the new company will have annual sales of £430 million, profits of at least £60 million and 3,600

employees. The new company will be called Amersham Pharmacia Biotech and its chief executive will be Ron Long, the Norwegian-born managing director of Amersham Life Science (ALS).

Mr Long is preparing to move to Uppsala in Sweden, where the new company will be based.

Amersham believes it will be better able to take advantage of opportunities in drug development and gene re-

search by combining its existing business, based around molecular labelling, with Pharmacia Biotech's skills in biomolecule separation and DNA analysis systems.

The British company will own 55 per cent of Amersham Pharmacia, with the rest owned by Pharmacia & Upjohn, the Swedish-American pharmaceuticals group based in Windsor. Yesterday's deal envisages a partial flotation of the new company and in-

cludes options that could see Amersham take full control if the flotation does not proceed within the next two-and-a-half years.

With sales of £269 million, Pharmacia is larger but less profitable than its merger partner. Amersham expects to be able to make savings on research and development, sales and marketing and information technology that will eventually reach £30 million a year. The changes are expect-

ed to involve the loss of 300 jobs, and will cost £60 million.

Mr Long said the enlarged company would be able to spend about £40 million a year on R&D, against the £12 million ALS spent last year.

ALS contributed increased profits of £37.4 million (£34.7 million) to Amersham's group total of £65.8 million (£50.3 million) for the year to March 31. Group sales were 21 per cent higher at £426 million.

The healthcare side of the

business, which includes imaging agents such as Carect and Myoview, lifted underlying profits 20 per cent to £21.1 million. With the inclusion of profits from Nihon Medi-Physics, a Japanese joint venture, total healthcare profits doubled to £34.9 million.

A final dividend of 16p a share, payable on August 5, increased the total payout by 22 per cent to 22p.

Tempus, page 28

BA to invest £6bn in three-year programme

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to invest £6 billion in new services, products, facilities and training over the next three years.

The programme, which sprang to life yesterday with the unveiling of BA's new livery, will see massive investment in new aircraft, including 29 Boeing 747-400s, nine 777s, and five 757s. Inflight entertainment will be overhauled, and BA's terminal at New York's JFK airport is to receive a \$100 million (£61 million) face-lift.

BA has invested £200 million in the past two years on cabin refurbishments, including "flying beds" in First Class, and candle seats in Club World. Hamish Taylor, who led the redesign for BA, recently defected to London & Continental Railways, to become managing director of Eurostar (UK).

Most of the £6 billion will be invested in new aircraft, although BA has set aside substantial sums for staff training. This includes a training programme for cabin crew encouraging them "to deliver service more as themselves [sic] rather than to a rigidly applied corporate formula".

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said: "During the next three years, we will be rolling out an investment programme worth some £6 billion. A successful British Airways, competing effectively with the best in the world, is the only way to guarantee jobs."

US growth helps Volex

VOLEX, the interconnect products and cable assemblies group, reported a 13.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14.4 million in the year to March 31, enjoying a particularly strong growth in business in North America. Group turnover rose to £177.2 million, from £174 million previously. The total dividend is increased to 21p a share, from 20p, with a 13.65p final, payable from earnings that rose to 34.3p a share from 32.1p.

Scottish Highland up

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND HOTELS, which came to the stock market in November, is lifting the interim dividend 20 per cent after returning better than expected results at the halfway stage. A dividend of 1.2p will be paid on July 1, much earlier than expected, suggesting a total payout of 4p. This would cost the company £971,000 — 10 per cent of which will go to the directors. Pre-tax profit was £749,000 (£275,000) in the six months to April 30, with earnings 2.6p (2p) a share.

Hotel group advances

MACDONALD HOTELS almost doubled pre-tax profits to £9.16 million (£4.78 million) in the year to March 30 after adding five hotels to its portfolio and taking occupancy levels to 63 per cent. Management contracts brought in £1.1 million of operating profits, a 33 per cent increase. The group spent £13.2 million on development over the year. Earnings rose to 12.01p (8.67p) a share. A final dividend of 3p, due on August 15, takes the total to 4.5p. The shares eased 1p to 176.1p.

Charles Stanley falls

CHARLES STANLEY spent £400,000 adapting its systems to Crest, the paperless share system last year, leaving the City broker with pre-tax profits 18 per cent down, at £2.08 million. After the firm bought two broking offices in Bedford and Reigate, turnover strengthened to £17.4 million (£15.9 million) although the expansion costs took earnings down to 13.6p (17.2p) a share. The total dividend rises to 3.825p (3.5p), with a final 0.25p due on July 11. The shares gained 1p to 136.5p.

Drummond sales rise

DRUMMOND, the Yorkshire textile and weaving company, has returned its strongest results for seven years in spite of suffering heavy costs because of machinery breakdown. Pre-tax profits jumped from £1.2 million to £1.5 million in the year to March 31. Borrowings rose to £12.5 million, but the company promised that this would now start to drop back. Earnings rose to 5.17p (4p) a share. A final dividend of 1.5p, payable on October 1, brings the total to 2p (1.5p).

Kent to join NatWest

PEN KENT, the former executive director of the Bank of England, is to join the NatWest Group as a main board director on September 1. Mr Kent, 59, who was once private secretary to the Governor of the Bank, will become a member of the bank's group audit and compliance committee as well as taking a similar post with NatWest Markets.

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pentium® II

CU launches big shake-up to save £100m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMMERCIAL UNION is reacting to a stagnating general insurance market by launching a major shake-up aimed at saving £100 million over the next two years.

The composite insurer said yesterday that the best way to boost profits would be through cutting costs rather than growing new business.

Peter Rice, UK divisional director of CU, said: "Our firm plans at present are for making efficiencies, but there will be no compulsory redundancies among our 5,500 general insurance staff."

The programme, called Market Orientation, will involve the head office being divided into nine new trading units handling product development, underwriting, marketing and delivery.

CU hopes to save £40 million from cutting administration costs through greater use of new technology, £20 million from new software to improve pricing and margins, and £40 million from reduced claims costs.

Four of the group's 22 branches have piloted the changes. CU said that many of the costs involved in the programme had already been

incurred as normal business expenses and there would be no hidden charge coming up later in the year.

In the last financial year, general insurance contributed a quarter of the group's total worldwide pre-tax operating profit of £444 million. Traditional composite insurers are looking at ways of operating more efficiently to compete with direct insurers that have entered the market recently.

Tempus, page 28

66 The record profit

coupled with a very positive cash flow has put us into a sound financial position.

The current financial year has started reasonably well with regards to volume for the three business.

Compared with the previous

year it will be a challenge

to maintain and then

improve our overall

profitability. 66

James Cropper, Chairman

All three divisions enjoyed favourable trading conditions

- Record Profit before Tax of £5.0m
- Interest cover 5.8 times
- Earnings per share of 36.2p
- Dividends up 21%
- Gearing reduced to 34%

	1997	1996
Turnover	£59.3m	£57.6m
Operating Profit	£5.9m	£3.0m
Profit before taxation	£5.0m	£1.9m
Dividend	4.7p	3.9p
Earnings per share	36.2p	13.7p

James Cropper PLC

Julian Farrand is a doughty champion of ordinary folk in his role of pensions ombudsman, as he was formerly as insurance ombudsman. Unlike some others, he is prepared to challenge and upset the industry professionals. That makes him the right person for the job. But even champions can be wrong. Mr Justice Walker's judgment on the National Grid pension fund suggests that in electricity, he pushed the primacy of individual members' rights too far.

Final salary pensions are inescapably paternalistic, in the best sense. They were set up by caring companies to guarantee employees a decent retirement and accepted on the same trusting basis by beneficiaries. Give and take and common sense come with the moral furniture.

Employees' trust has been betrayed by some greedy companies who see pension fund surpluses as a pot of cash to be extracted and pocketed. Many advisers were only too keen to help. But courts now stamp on such behaviour, which will become harder under the regime set up by the Pensions Act 1995.

Under that post-Maxwell law, employers will still normally have first call on actuarial surpluses, usually to finance contribution holidays, as a *quid pro quo* for their guarantee. But they cannot dispose of surpluses without trustees agreeing. Trustees should include members chosen by employees and are ultimately

answerable to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, the industry's latest quango.

Mr Farrand lost the electricity argument on legal detail, to the great relief of the pension fund industry. The joint electricity fund left over from state ownership allowed the employer to "make arrangements to deal with surplus". What a rogue's charter. But the companies were not rogues. They used the surplus to give extra pension rights to workers made redundant.

Otherwise, the cash might have come out of shareholders' funds. Or redundant employees might have been offered less. Many trustees would think that a good use of surplus.

In the new climate, such flexibility will surely die with the paternalism that spawned it. Employees are becoming rights-conscious and suspicious, partly because so many cost-conscious employers have tried to make life one long contributions holiday. Often, the holiday is paid for by employees made redundant, whose pensions are capped.

Pension fund professionals should not gloat over their victory. Mr Farrand will doubtless win other cases if there is no appeal on this one. His judgment

on the Government's dodgy handling of the National Bus pension fund, which will eventually be tested in court, looks good.

More seriously, the breakdown of trust undermines final salary schemes, in favour of arms length pensions that depend totally on investment returns. That is tidier, more foolproof but not always so fair or kind. On current contribution rates, pensions will not be so good either.

A fat cat amongst the PFI pigeons

Malcolm Bates — who, like Labour's new welfare-to-work supremo, Sir Peter Davis, heads a pensions mis-selling company — is to deliver his blueprint for reforming the Private Finance Initiative on Friday. It is likely to incorporate many of the ideas being developed by Alastair Ross

Final curtain for final salary

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Goobey before he was fired as head of the Private Finance Panel to make way for the Pearl chairman, so indicating that this is a genuine relaunch may require drastic action. Bates will almost certainly recommend a change of name. Bye bye PFI, hello PPP, the Public-Private Partnership.

On top of that he will address the issue of streamlining the bidding process, so that many projects can be fast tracked to avoid becoming bogged down within the civil service, and restructuring the way health service trusts enter into contracts. But Bates's most fundamental proposal will be on the issue of risk transfer. This was an ideological concept dreamt up by Francis Maude when he was in Government and grasped enthusiastically by the Treasury, which saw it as a way of avoiding those nasty cost overruns that tend to plague Government contracts. The idea is that private

companies take a large share of the risk on a contract and, if it goes well, should collect a commensurate proportion of the reward. But construction companies like Costain and Tarmac who have weak balance sheets cannot face such a level of risk and the Government, as it showed last week in its embarrassing intervention into Camelot, is unreasonably prudish about rewards.

When Camelot tendered to run the lottery, it invested a fortune in a pre-PFI project which had no guarantee of success. When the gamble paid off, there was an outcry at the reward it reaped. If, in a similar way, someone building PFI hospitals was to make a mint and paid their directors a healthy bonus, what would the Government do?

The solution is tricky. Narrowing the distance between the upside and the downside has some attraction. But there has to be some risk/reward pay off to make

PFI attractive to both the private and public sector. Without it, all that will be left is an horrendously complex way of tendering for public contracts. Bates has to tell the Government that if it wants the benefit of PFI, it will have to swallow some fat catery. He must hope that Gordon Brown is not in the mood for shooting the messenger.

Lord Hanson sees surge of Energy

Lord Hanson may see some vindication for his demerger strategy in the generous cash offer now being made for Energy Group.

The break up of his eponymous business empire was supposed to demonstrate the value he and Lord White had accumulated for shareholders, but the stock market's initial reaction to the dismemberment was as welcoming as that of the board of ICI when the predatory peer dropped his calling card on the company's share register.

Turning old Hanson into four companies failed to enthuse investors. The most glamorous aspect of the exercise remained Robert Hanson, the habitué of

the gossip columns who may yet take over the top job in the building materials business that now bears his family name.

There was certainly little initial enthusiasm for Energy Group — a combination of Eastern, a British electricity and gas business, and Peabody Coal, a US operation with an unhappy labour relations record.

But the move by Pacificorp indicates that Lord H was right. And as Chancellor Gordon Brown will no doubt take note, the fact that the bidders are prepared to offer a 20 per cent premium to the market price indicates a phlegmatic approach to the imminent windfall tax. Despite the public protestations from the utilities, most are reconciled to the fact that the tax is going to have to be paid. What the Energy bid indicates is how easily they think it can be afforded.

Market mystery

WHATEVER is powering the stock market to new highs, it is not mere logic. The upsurge in share prices is restricted to a few sectors, particularly the financials, where punters are betting on takeovers at some fancy prices. But the stores sector is down on a year ago and the breweries and leisure grouping has already moved. Surely those collecting their windfalls from the converting building societies cannot be so restrained that the shops and pubs will not feel the benefit.

Milk prices take toll of Northern

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE falling price of raw milk should mean a substantial recovery in profits at the Northern Foods dairy business in the current year. Christopher Haskins, chairman, said yesterday.

The company reported a 2.3 per cent rise in pre-tax and pre-experimental profits to £127.1 million in the year to March 31. This came in spite of £17 million being knocked off profits because of the collapse in milk powder and buttercream prices in the year.

The company is confident that, after a cut in the raw milk price last April, the price set by Milk Marque should come down by a further 1.2p to 1.6p per litre in the autumn. Northern Foods buys half its milk from Milk Marque and half from farm direct.

Neil Davidson, managing director of Northern's dairy business, echoed other dairy companies when he said that the pricing system needs to be adapted to be more responsive to currency changes.

The BSE crisis cost North-

ern Foods £20 million in net sales reduction and £5.4 million off its net operating profit last year. It had an impact both on the company's meat products and convenience foods division. The latter had an otherwise strong year with operating margins increasing from 6.7 to 8.1 per cent.

The company is planning heavy investments, particularly in the businesses that supply Marks & Spencer, its largest customer. Investment in productivity and expansion in prepared foods are set to reach £50 million both this year and next, compared with £57 million last year.

The company, which has reduced its gearing from 45 to 30 per cent, is now looking for acquisitions and may make some "exploratory investments" on the Continent in the coming year.

It is paying a final dividend of 5.8p (5.5p) on October 1, giving a total of 9.4p (9p). The shares put on 6.4p to 206.4p.

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FirstBus appeals to Beckett

BY FRASER NELSON

TREVOR SMALLWOOD, the chief executive of FirstBus, is appealing to Margaret Beckett to release the group from its obligation to sell one of its main Scottish bus operators before its acquisition of Strathclyde Buses is approved.

Mr Smallwood says the central Scottish bus market has fundamentally changed since Ian Lang, the previous President of the Board of Trade, said it must sell Bluebird Buses before the Strathclyde deal was approved by the DTI.

He said its Midland Bluebird buses and Strathclyde Buses are both facing renewed competition from other operators. This, he said, warrants a fresh inquiry by the monopolies commission.

The company doubled its pre-tax profits to £51 million (£22 million) in the year to March 31. Earnings were 14.4p (10.4p) a share, and the dividend rises to 5.5p. A final 3.7p is payable on August 29.

Indonesian firm to buy SR Gent

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

STRUGGLING SR Gent, a clothing supplier to Marks & Spencer, is being acquired by Prospero Investments, an Indonesian-based company.

SR Gent had a pre-tax loss of £11.1 million last year and has been in talks with potential buyers since the autumn.

Prospero is offering 82p per share for the company, valuing it at £30.6 million.

The offer has already been accepted by directors of SR Gent and other shareholders who between them control 61.3 per cent of the company.

Mike Stakol, chief executive of SR Gent, said: "After a period of great uncertainty, the offer by Prospero represents a fair value for SR Gent."

Prospero said that it would review all the manufacturing operations of SR Gent in the UK and overseas, but added that it was committed to the UK as a high-quality manufacturing base. SR Gent shares rose 8p to 79.2p.

West End rent spiral helps Great Portland

A SHORTAGE of new office space is sending rents rocketing upwards in London's West End, helping to boost property values at Great Portland Estates (Carl Morris writes).

The company's West End portfolio grew by almost 10 per cent over the past year and Richard Peskin, chairman, estimates rents have advanced up to 15 per cent since March.

Mr Peskin said: "Rents in the West End, where Westminster's planning policies and the current vogue for residential use continue to restrict the supply of offices,

have grown by at least 20 per cent in the last two years."

The West End office glut of the 1980s has been followed by a flood of office-to-residential conversions, exacerbating the office supply shortage.

Overall, Great Portland's properties gained 4.8 per cent in value in the year to March, helping net asset value to rise by 15p to 212p a share. Pre-tax profits were £46 million (£47.6 million). The total dividend is maintained at 10.4p a share (10.6p).

Tempus, page 28

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Investor wrath floors price of BTR shares

BTR has become the most unpopular constituent of the top 100 companies with institutional investors. They continued piling out of the shares yesterday as the price touched 180p before a late rally reduced the deficit to 2p at 184p, its lowest level for five years. More than 17 million shares changed hands. The warrants also suffered, finishing 5p lower at 214p.

The fall from grace by the industrial conglomerate, whose interests include Hawker Siddeley, has cost many of the big securities houses a fortune. Only last year the price was trading at a peak of 330p.

Several traders refused to discuss BTR, claiming they are sitting on potentially large losses and have been attracting increasing flak from their largest institutional clients.

The group slashed its dividend by 33 per cent in September and last month issued its fourth profits warning in three years, only days after SBC Warburg, the broker, placed 80 million shares, or 2 per cent of the company, with various institutions at 219p.

While BTR was heading south, the rest of the equity market was scaling new heights on the back of another strong showing by the Dow Jones industrial average. Overnight, the Dow had reached a new all-time peak and in early trading last night soared almost a further 100 points. The FTSE 100 index responded with a leap of 52.9 to close at a best 4,739.6 as 871 million shares were traded.

By contrast, the rise in the FTSE 250 was a more modest 13.2 at 4,497.3, while in New York the Nasdaq 100 share index, which includes Microsoft and Intel, fell 0.78 to 953.78.

Among the leaders, GEC put on 17p at 353.1p. Lehman Brothers has set a target price of 400p a share. Once again there is talk about GEC bidding for British Aerospace, 8p lower at 131.50. BAe is currently taking a party of brokers on a two-day trip to the Airbus plant at Toulouse followed by a visit to another site in Lancashire.

LucasVarity is also hosting a visit to its Perkins diesel operation. They were clearly impressed with what they saw and the shares responded with a rise of 14p at 209p. BT raced towards the 500p target price set by Merrill Lynch



BAe, Airbus consortium member, dropped 8p on bid talk

with a rise of 12p at 482.1p.

High street stores were encouraged by the latest monthly British Retail Survey showing a near 5 per cent rise in the value of sales. There were gains for Great Universal Stores, 8.1p to 652p, Marks & Spencer, 31p to 545p, Storehouse, 8p to 199.1p, Boots, 19p to 727.1p, Dixons, 17p to 508.1p, Next, 17p to 741p, MFI Furniture,

3p to 129p and Electrical Retail, 37.1p to 443.1p. Carpetright rose 8p to 443.1p ahead of figures next week, while Laura Ashley slipped another 11p to a new low of 80p. The poor performance of the shares means the company now faces the prospect of losing its place as a constituent of the FTSE 250.

N Brown slipped 1p to 413.1p as the family trust sold

12.7 million shares, or 3 per cent of the equity, at 180p.

Granada moved up 121.1p to 902.1p after confirmation of its bid for Yorkshire-Tyre Tees Television, 5p lighter at 111.55. The terms are expected to be pitched around 111.75, valuing Yorkshire at £62.5 million. Granada already owns 25 per cent.

Scottish Media followed up its bid for Grampian Television, up 71p to 317.1p, by snapping up 9 per cent of its shares in the marketplace. It picked up 3.26 million shares at 320p, matching the terms from Scottish, 71p dearer at 709p. This puts a price tag on Grampian of £105 million.

NFC moved ahead 3p to 141.1p reflecting this week's purchase of 500,000 shares by Sir Colin Bland, chairman, at 134p. It lifts its total holding to 1.15 million shares, or less than one per cent. Only last week NFC reported an increase in pre-tax profits during the first six months from £45.4 million to £53.3 million.

Confirmation of its proposed link-up with Pharmacia & Upjohn sent shares of Amersham International soaring 131.1p to 148.82p.

Energy Group was a late mover, adding 18.1p to 580p on news of its proposed merger with Pacific Corporation.

Seafield Resources put on a further 41p to 650p after confirming a bid approach on Monday. At these levels the group is at £45 million. A bid approach also lifted S R Geat 8p to 791.1p.

The best performance of the day was seen in High-Point, the property agency, where the price surged 30p, or 10 per cent, to 571.1p on the back of its proposed restructuring and fundraising plans.

Jarvis reached a new high with a jump of 5p at 296.1p.

□ GILT-EDGED: A late rally prompted by a firm start to trading among US Treasury bonds enabled London to close with small losses on the day.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt edged a tick lower to close at £113.1p as a total of 70,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 also shed a tick at £108.9p, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unmoved at £102.15p.

□ NEW YORK: Share prices took off for the third day running and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 67.82 points ahead at 7,546.32.

the outlook for Lasmo. He says the shares look cheap compared with their peers.

"Enterprise is expensive compared with its net asset value of 500p. Italy may take longer than expected to come on stream."

Wright reckons Enterprise is still heavily reliant on mature areas and must make significant finds to keep growing. By contrast, Lasmo is trading at a small premium to its net asset value of 228p. He feels comfortable with this considering the bearish outlook for the oil price generally for the rest of the year.

"It wasn't a giveaway at that price. Once they have paid for it Lasmo's gearing is going to be high, enough to deter any bid interest."

By contrast, Jon Wright, at Merrill Lynch, prefers

A two-way pull has developed in shares of Enterprise Oil. 112.1p fighter at 683p, and rival Lasmo, 3p lower at 131.50. BAe is currently taking a party of brokers on a two-day trip to the Airbus plant at Toulouse followed by a visit to another site in Lancashire.

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with a rise of 12p at 482.1p. High street stores were encouraged by the latest monthly British Retail Survey showing a near 5 per cent rise in the value of sales. There were gains for Great Universal Stores, 8.1p to 652p, Marks & Spencer, 31p to 545p, Storehouse, 8p to 199.1p, Boots, 19p to 727.1p, Dixons, 17p to 508.1p, Next, 17p to 741p, MFI Furniture,

3p to 129p and Electrical Retail, 37.1p to 443.1p. Carpetright rose 8p to 443.1p ahead of figures next week, while Laura Ashley slipped another 11p to a new low of 80p. The poor performance of the shares means the company now faces the prospect of losing its place as a constituent of the FTSE 250.

N Brown slipped 1p to 413.1p as the family trust sold

12.7 million shares, or 3 per cent of the equity, at 180p.

Granada moved up 121.1p to 902.1p after confirmation of its bid for Yorkshire-Tyre Tees Television, 5p lighter at 111.55. The terms are expected to be pitched around 111.75, valuing Yorkshire at £62.5 million. Granada already owns 25 per cent.

Scottish Media followed up its bid for Grampian Television, up 71p to 317.1p, by snapping up 9 per cent of its shares in the marketplace. It picked up 3.26 million shares at 320p, matching the terms from Scottish, 71p dearer at 709p. This puts a price tag on Grampian of £105 million.

NFC moved ahead 3p to 141.1p reflecting this week's purchase of 500,000 shares by Sir Colin Bland, chairman, at 134p. It lifts its total holding to 1.15 million shares, or less than one per cent. Only last week NFC reported an increase in pre-tax profits during the first six months from £45.4 million to £53.3 million.

Confirmation of its proposed link-up with Pharmacia & Upjohn sent shares of Amersham International soaring 131.1p to 148.82p.

Energy Group was a late mover, adding 18.1p to 580p on news of its proposed merger with Pacific Corporation.

Seafield Resources put on a further 41p to 650p after confirming a bid approach on Monday. At these levels the group is at £45 million. A bid approach also lifted S R Geat 8p to 791.1p.

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PLUS
no gain

They had the kind of address books that direct marketing companies would have killed for, filled with hundreds of clients who could each lay their hands on at least £250,000.

Decorum, and the well-bred sensibilities of the bulk of their clients, stopped Lloyd's of London members' agents from realising the full value of these assets.

Now, with their future in serious doubt, the men who have traditionally acted as the representatives of names, liaising with underwriters and helping to select syndicates for their clients, cannot afford to sit on their hands.

They are aiming to diversify into other areas of financial services, such as equities and pensions. Having worked in a self-regulating market, some, for the first time, are now taking external exams that are commonplace in other areas of finance.

The address books, whitewashed down by the scandals and the £8 billion losses of the 1987-92 period, are having to work a lot harder. Having

Lloyd's members' agents seek to expand services

weathered the exodus of thousands of members after the society's rescue package was accepted — the number of individual names underwriting at Lloyd's dropped from 19,537 in 1993 to 9,958 in 1997 — the surviving members' agencies, now fewer than 20 after a fresh wave of consolidation, face a potent ongoing threat.

It centres on the possible abolition of the annual joint venture. This is the mechanism under which names have the right to commit themselves to underwriting on an annual basis.

Its opponents say the annual joint venture is costly and gives the impression to customers that the underlying capital base is insecure.

Without the annual joint venture, and the ability to shuffle their

exposure on a rolling basis, names would be passive investors.

At Kiln Cotesworth Stewart members' agency, which was formed by a recent merger and represents just under 800 names, new advisory activities for wealthy clients could stretch as far as pensions.

Adrian Graves, chief executive, says: "I would be very reluctant to advise on pensions, but I may well enter into a relationship with someone who does."

Services are likely to include tax planning. The tax affairs of names are famously complex and much expertise has been employed in the design of Scottish limited partnerships, one of several vehicles de-

signed to enable unlimited liability names to continue underwriting on a limited liability basis without throwing away the traditional tax advantages. Kiln Cotesworth Stewart is among several members' agencies marketing them.

Harrison Brothers members' agency is looking to US corporate capital to plug part of the hole left by individual names. It says that the Americans want hands-on participation but need help because of the distance involved. The agency adds that it also has a tie-up with a US venture capital fund in the pipeline.

There is a general scramble among agencies for clearance by watchdogs such as Imro or the SFA for their new

advisory activities. Some have sister companies with this status already: there is a chain of independent financial advisers within the Hiscox group, for instance. At Murray Lawrence, six members of staff have passed SFA exams this year.

Anton Jardine members' agency has published a paper calling for Lloyd's-based derivatives. The paper, by Robert Miller, a prominent name, envisages a variety of futures and options. Since Lloyd's allows names to auction their right to participate in a syndicate, it suggests introducing options to buy or sell capacity in advance. It also advocates a futures contract based on the society's aggregate result and capacity leasing between names. If names think they are about to enter a bad year, they could lease the right to participate to a less risk-averse member.

Mr Miller says that the proposals provide a natural new role for members' agents as "sophisticated capacity brokers".

ADAM JONES



ANTHONY HARRIS

Case of the Halifax helicopter

The first meeting of the new monetary policy committee must have produced a good deal of bafflement. It is a formidable body: enough practical experience to run a global bank, and enough learning to grace any economics faculty. Or a hedge fund, for that matter: two of them, Charles Goodhart and Willem Buiter, are at the cutting edge of the most arcane new branch of the science, asset pricing. The situation they faced must have looked familiar: an asset price boom, the start of so many past inflations. But as soon as you look into the cause, which is demutualisation, the familiar begins to look odd, like the familiar objects Alice met when she was through the looking-glass. Cause and effect are in a sense running contrariwise.

Consider: asset price inflation, too much money chasing too few stocks or houses is usually the sure sign of slack monetary policy — inflation as Milton Friedman defined, a purely monetary phenomenon. The response is obvious: tighten policy.

But this time it is different. The reckless monetary expansion that has financed the bull market has been fed almost entirely from one country, Japan (which tackled overvaluation by printing yen almost without limit — British policy on its head, as it were).

International organisations such as the UN, the EU, the Council of Europe and the Organisation of African States are moving towards changing their regulatory environments to criminalise bribery of foreign officials, to prevent bribes being tax deductible and to improve accounting in this area. The World Bank has recently changed its procurement regulations to strengthen remedies against any bidder shown to have engaged in corrupt practices.

It may be some time before extraterritorial legislation is in place in all OECD member states, and even longer before other non-member states such as the Asian Tigers and South American countries can be tied in via the World Trade Organisation or UN. But it seems that the days in which a lucrative contract could be secured by paying an extra 15 per cent into a minister's numbered Zurich bank account are now drawing to a close.

as the biggest of the lot. Demutualisation: another problem which has escaped attention, and really very odd. The wealth which has suddenly been unlocked actually existed all along, but as long as it was mutualised, it was more or less invisible. But now that it is suddenly condensing into a heavy rain of spendable money, they have to respond. What, though, is the appropriate response?

Partly it is sheer guesswork. The recipients will spend 10 per cent, reinvest the rest. That was the official guess, but it now looks too conservative, so rates have been raised. But will this make things better, or worse? One reason why the problem has grown bigger as it approached is that the British bull market has been heavily concentrated in the financials (the normal twist that results when the exchange rate goes up). This has made the windfalls bigger than was expected; but higher rates, which will tend to benefit both the currency and the financial sector, could simply make it bigger still. These are deep waters, Watson.

Theory is not very helpful. The nearest thing to the Halifax in the literature of monetary is the Friedman helicopter. The high priest of monetarism was fumbling for an example of a purely monetary inflation. The best he could come up with was to ask his readers to imagine the results of scattering money from a helicopter.

He showed, to his own satisfaction, that this operation would raise prices, but have no effect at all on the real economy. But he suggested no remedy — apart from not scattering money from helicopters, and nobody has thought fit to ban that. The world sniggered, and moved on.

But now that we have a kind of helicopter, we may try a ban. Since raising rates may not work, the Chancellor is rumoured to have his sights on demutualisation itself. Too late, surely; and perhaps the best answer is Greenspan's: if it simply takes the pain out of virtue, do nothing.



International organisations are taking a tougher approach to tackling corruption

The latest international corruption perception index in 1996 ranked Nigeria as the world's most corrupt country and Pakistan as the world's second most corrupt. Pakistan probably bribed the judges... or so the old joke goes.

But corruption is no longer a joking matter. The OECD has announced new recommendations to combat bribery in international business transactions. This week it brings out the first draft of a treaty that will recommend to member countries that they should introduce extraterritorial laws criminalising the bribery of foreign public officials. Proposed legislation should be submitted by next April for enactment by the end of 1998.

This is highly ambitious in terms of both target and timetable, but the point is clear. The problem of corruption will no longer be shrugged off as an endemic and incurable disease in certain cultures. No longer will grand-scale inducements be accepted as an inevitable part of the practice of Western businesses in developing countries. Western business executives who have operated on the assumption that a 15 to 20 per cent bribe to secure a sale in a developing country is culturally acceptable will have to think again if such practices are to be made a criminal offence at home.

"We are not aiming to see large numbers of businessmen in jail," said Mark Pitman, chairman of the OECD working group on bribery. "Our aim is to create a level playing field and secure good governance by operating an internationally binding convention that will make Unilever and General Electric, for example, bound by the same rules when operating around the world. We may not achieve everything so quickly, but we can bring about a certain standard and the picture should look very different by 2000."

The bulk of the responsibility for corruption has gradually been shifting from the shoulders of the recipients (public officials or heads of state if the pickings are rich

enough) on to those of the suppliers (the companies). "Too many Western companies march into developing countries with their cheque books poised, and bad decisions are being made because the decision makers are being paid," said George Moody Stuart, chairman of Transparency International UK, an affiliate of Transparency International, the non-profit-making organisation set up in 1993 to counter corruption in international business. It has done much to persuade the OECD and other international organisations to think seriously about the possibilities of tackling corruption.

"There has been a huge deterioration in the last ten years, with grand corruption becoming the general rule rather than the exception in major government-influenced contracts in the South."

Contracts to sell aircrafts and military supplies including telecommunications, have always had the strongest potential for grand (ie, large scale) corruption. The sums of money are enormous, and the high-technology content and a requirement, sometimes genuine, for secrecy makes it difficult to question the validity of the purchasing decision. For example, Pakistan's top naval officer retired in April this year amid allegations of bribery in a £80 million purchase of submarines from DCN, the French submarine maker.

The capital goods element of big industrial projects offers a further area for profitable bribery in which large downpayments for purpose-built equipment can be readily justified. And large civil engineering contracts such as dams, bridges, highways and airports are also likely to offer rich pickings for local officials.

One case in Kenya, in which the contract for the Turkwel Gorge Dam was awarded to French contractors in 1986 without international competitive bidding, attracted the attention of an EC delegate in Kenya. According to his report, the price was double what would have been expected from

competitive bids. The installed price of the turbines was listed as \$277,000 each, against a British consultant's estimate of \$140,000 each. The EC delegate calculated that the cost of energy from Turkwell would be 2.4 times higher than that from an equivalent dam on the Tana River. The Kenya government officials who are involved in the project are fully aware of the disadvantages of the French deal, but they nevertheless accepted because of high personal advantage.

This is not to say that senior executives of the developed world's multinationals and big trading companies are a bunch of crooks. More likely they are just highly competitive. Lord Young, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the BBC in 1994 when he

was chairman of Cable and Wireless: "Now when you're talking about kickbacks, you're talking about something that's illegal in this country, and that of course you wouldn't dream of doing... but there are parts of the world I've been to where we all know it happens, and if you want to be in business you have to do..."

The ramifications of the criminalisation of overseas bribery for international business organisations are likely to be heavy. A board member at Siemens, for example, has estimated that it would take ten years to replace the overseas staff, contacts and networks that all currently expect to operate on the basis of "necessary" bribery.

How will the proposed new laws be policed? "More than half the work has to be done by

the companies themselves," says Dr Pitman. "We will depend on information from competitors on stricter external auditing, accounting requirements and internal company controls. We may set up an index analysis of business practice to see if it is working. The OECD can be tough."

The only country that has specifically criminalised offshore bribery for international business organisations is the United States, where the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act was introduced by the Carter Administration in 1977. The Act was a response to the disclosure that leading US corporations, such as Lockheed and United Brands, had used bribes to secure foreign orders.

Today, US companies violating the Act are liable to fines of up to \$2 million per violation, and individuals up to

advertising campaign for the company's watches, on the day he was sacked. My source inside the company, now, alas, also departed, suggested this.

But, like Banquo's ghost, Hodgson turned up again — in plaster after breaking his leg, which meant wearing some rather fetching cut-off denim shorts. "He was very relaxed and cool," says a more reliable informant. "He behaved as if nothing had happened." Incidentally, he once included something rude about me in a trashy book he wrote about the undertaking business. I never hold grudges. But you still have one leg left, Howard.

MARTIN WALLER

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High noon

SOME more infighting from that strange parallel world where the Reform Act was never passed, local government in the City. On June 24 there will be elections for the two sheriffs, a ceremonial post that is a precursor to becoming Lord Mayor and requires following the latter around for a year. There are two insiders, both aldermen, David Howard, a stockbroker, and Michael Oliver, of Hill Samuel Investment Management. Normally it would be a shoot-in, but this time there is an

outsider, Dennis Delderfield, and one who is no fan of the archaic system. Delderfield, editor of the *City of London Times*, has a few things to say to the laymen who will be assembled at Guildhall to vote in a show of hands. "The City is desperately in need of reform. It's a way of bringing this to their attention." He also plans to challenge electoral circulars from his rivals claiming the support of the Lord Mayor and other aldermen as illegal under the Representation of the People Act. Watch this space.

TO THE first match in the Veuve Clicquot Cup, the City's summer croquet championship sponsored by the champagne house and Corney & Barrow, where I happened on a serious diplomatic incident. As the 100 teams lined up for the tournament, played at Broadgate's Exchange Square lawns, times and evenings, Count Edouard de Nast, of Veuve Clicquot, claims French ancestry for the game. "Where do you think the words croquet and mallet come from?" he asks. I explain patiently that the game happens to have attached to it a French-sounding name but remains, historical

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Babcock in talks to sell division

By MARTIN BARROW

BABCOCK International Group, the engineering company, said yesterday that it is in talks to sell its loss-making process division.

John Parker, chairman, said Babcock had received a number of approaches from potential buyers and these were being evaluated. Babcock intends to retain BWEV, its water engineering joint venture with Yorkshire Water.

The division incurred losses of £4.2 million before exceptional items on turnover of £49.8 million in the last financial year. Dr Parker said the results reflect its vulnerability to the deferment of large projects, such as a titanium dioxide project in Australia for SCM/Millennium, whose delay was confirmed in January.

Yesterday Babcock also announced it would withdraw from the prototype electric arc furnace (EAF) dust recycling

BSS suffers first decline in four years

HARSH conditions in the commercial plumbing and heating market forced BSS Group into its first profits downturn in four years, in spite of a resurgence in household demand.

Although sales grew to £33.1 million (£31.6 million) in the year to March 31, a heavier reliance on the domestic market left much weaker margins as profits fell from £15.1 million to £12.5 million and earnings from 51.7p to 30.2p a share. The dividend is frozen at 20.5p, with a final 14p, due on August 4. The company said that the commercial market was recovering. The shares slid 3p to a three-year low of 500p.

Babcock's main strategic success was the acquisition of the Rosyth Royal Dockyard from the Ministry of Defence after two-and-a-half years of negotiation. As part of the privatisation agreement, a substantial programme of work was allocated by the MoD over the next five years. Babcock awaits an MoD decision on its bid to manage the Fleet Maintenance and Repair Organisation at Portsmouth.

Babcock, which ended the year with net cash of £29.3 million, down from £52.2 million, is halving the total dividend to 15p a share. Earnings, before exceptional items, were 0.39p a share, against losses of 1.27p in the previous year. The shares fell 1.5p to 85.2p.

ANGLIAN GROUP, the replacement window and building products company, has made a confident start to the financial year, with growth in demand supported by the buoyant house market.

Yesterday Anglian reported a rise in pre-tax profits from continuing operations to £20.2 million from £16.2 million for

the year to March 29, on sales that improved to £223.3 million from £194.3 million. Adjusted earnings were 15.5p a share, up from 12.8p. The total dividend is up 20 per cent to 9p a share, with a 5.4p final.

Eddie Boss, chief executive, said: "Steady progress should continue with demand growth likely to be main-

tained in the retail and new house build markets." He said the company was preparing to invest heavily in branding, marketing and operational infrastructure.

Mr Boss said Anglian had benefited from action taken to expand in the home improvement retail market, enhancing the specialist sales force.

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Equities extend their gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1990 High Low Company	Price 09 +/-	Yld %	PE	1990 High Low Company	Price 09 +/-	Yld %	PE	1990 High Low Company	Price 09 +/-	Yld %	PE
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



■ MUSIC 1

Musical thrills, backstage spills: Britten's Aldeburgh Festival reaches its fiftieth year



■ MUSIC 2

Garsington revives a rare Haydn opera, but the neighbours make their point too

THE TIMES ARTS



■ RISING STAR

Katherine Hunka prepares to play the solo violin in a rediscovered Britten concerto



■ TOMORROW

How is Whoopi's latest? Read Geoff Brown on all the top new movies and videos

As Aldeburgh prepares for its 50th festival, Marion Thorpe tells Richard Morrison how it all began

At the court of King Ben



Touch of genius: Britten at the piano (with the young Marion Thorpe turning the pages) joins the Amadeus String Quartet in a performance at the 1952 Aldeburgh Festival

It was born out of frustration. Benjamin Britten, brilliant young composer, was tired of fitting into lesser mortals' visions. His relationship with Glyndebourne, which had premiered *The Rape of Lucretia* and *Albert Herring*, was increasingly fraught. But without a home theatre his English Opera Group was condemned to a precarious nomadic existence. Indeed, it was on a trek to the Lucerne Festival, while contemplating a probable deficit of £3,000 (a huge loss in 1947), that the tenor Peter Pears, Britten's lover, uttered the fateful words: "Why not make our own festival?"

Thus began the Aldeburgh Festival, which on Friday opens its doors for the 50th consecutive year. Britten has been dead for 20 years; Pears for 11. Some argue that the festival should have fallen silent too; that Aldeburgh without Britten is truly a hamlet without its prince. In *Time & Concord*, a fine new collection of Aldeburgh reminiscences, John Amis poignantly recalls that during early festivals the town hummed with musicians "as it never would in future years". Now even the town council of

this smug Suffolk borough snubs its greatest resident: last year it turned down a plan for a Britten statue.

Yet the festival rolls on. Its standards remain impeccable, its premières weighty (a new Mark-Anthony Turnage double-bill opens the 1997 festival); its centrepiece — the beautiful Maltings amid Snape's reed marshes — is still a vital focus of East Anglian cultural life.

And not all links with its glory years are broken. Marion Thorpe, for instance, is still closely involved as a trustee of Britten's estate, which lavishly funds the festival. It is hard to imagine anyone better fitted to keep the flame alive.

"I don't remember the first time I met Britten," she says. "He came to Vienna in the 1930s when he wanted to study with Alban Berg, and had lunch at our house. But I was too young to remember." However, when her family fled to Britain in 1938 her father (Erwin Stein, a distinguished musical all-rounder) took a job with Boosey and Hawkes and became Britten's editor and mentor.

"After Ben returned from America during the war, he would spend a lot of time at our home. One was bowled over by his music and by him.

It seemed wonderful to have a festival where the main figure was a great composer and performer.

In 1944 we had a fire in our flat and nowhere to live. Ben suggested we move into his apartment in St John's Wood. For several years we shared a house with him and Peter."

By then Marion Thorpe was studying piano at the Royal College of Music. "My father and Ben would play piano-duet versions of the Mahler symphonies. That was their shared love. My father had met Mahler, and Ben was one of the first people in Britain to appreciate his music. And it was in St John's Wood that preparations were made for the premiere of *Peter Grimes*. I heard it coming to life on the piano. It was as if a new world had opened; the war was over, and here was a great new English opera."

The festival was not trouble-free. First there was opposition

from Aldeburgh's dominant golfing and sailing crowds ("Hearts v Arties", a wag remarked). The whiff of homosexuality around the festival didn't exactly help; this was the Fifties. Then there were natural disasters: the 1953 flood, the 1969 fire which wrecked the newly converted Maltings. All this the festival triumphantly overcame. But there was something that could not be easily countered: the accusation that Aldeburgh was like an imperial court governed by a clique who ruthlessly decided whether a performer was "in" or "out". Britten certainly attracted giant collaborators: Richter, Fischer-Dieskau and Rostropovich were Aldeburgh regulars. But musicians, librarians and even administrators (such as Marion Thorpe's first husband, Lord Harewood) who displeased the master were ejected from the charmed circle and referred to as "corpses". In *Time & Concord*, Sir Charles Mackerras recalls memories "both pleasant and unpleasant" of the festival. He was banished for joking about the number of boys in *Noyes Fludde*.

Not surprisingly, Marion Thorpe is fiercely loyal to Britten, citing friendships with potential rivals such as Shostakovich ("no jealousy at all"). "Of course he could get cross about a bad performance. And he was extremely sensitive to criticism himself. We always said that he had fewer skins than most people. But the idea of the festival was really to have fun." Nor will she comment publicly on the lurid Humphrey Carpenter biography, which portrays Britten as a deeply twisted pervert, though she says that "some books have simply not captured the man I knew".

What's indisputable is that Aldeburgh in Britten's day had a world-class status. Could it regain that? Perhaps, says Marion Thorpe. "The vital thing was that Ben was at the heart of the performances. I would like to see another great musician become the focal point. It's been talked about." Indeed it has. But this festival will surely only ever belong to one man, and he lies in Aldeburgh churchyard.

● The Aldeburgh Festival opens on Friday 10/7/97 15:30-19:30. *Time & Concord* is published by Auto-graph Books (01723 602216)

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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
KATHERINE HUNKA

Age: 24.

Profession: Violinist. "But I prefer to think of myself simply as a musician. You can't be a good musician if you consider yourself only a fiddler. Real musicians get right inside the music, rather than satisfying their own egos."

She takes a broader view. "If you want to be an artist, then you have to open your eyes to the other arts. Developing a mature musicianship takes a while. I'm not in any great

rush to stop studying and come home."

Where's home? London. Hunka began playing the violin at the age of four, led the National Youth Orchestra and was a prize-winning student at the Royal Academy of Music.

Where does she study now? Since last August with eminent teacher Mauricio Fuks at Indiana University, US. "Some of the finest musicians go to Bloomington to teach, so that attracts good students



who work terrifyingly hard. It's partly geographics: you are stuck in the middle of nowhere, so people practise all day."

It's rather intense, then? "Fuks is 100 per cent big influence on me, but he makes me work like an absolute dog. So I come home to relax, and to do concerts."

When can we hear her? On Sunday at the Aldeburgh Festival, giving the world premiere of Britten's Double Concerto with the viola player Philip Duke under Kent Nagano.

A Britten premiere? The full-length Double Concerto was written when he was 19 but only recently discovered. "It's early Britten, so quite romantic, a little quirky here, a bit daft there. At first I wondered if Britten would have wanted it done, but now I'm convinced it should be played."

Long-term goals? "I love my solo work, but need to be with other players too — musicians are wonderful to mix with. I just want to aim high."

JOHN ALLISON

THE TIMES



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A Haydn place with noises off

OPERA
Le pescatrice
Garsington

THE GLOVES are off at Garsington. Opponents of opera are not taking Leonard Ingrams's victory over local objections and the granting of seven years' planning permission lying down. During much of the first act of Haydn's comedy on Monday, a light aircraft buzzed the auditorium, doubtless engaged in some urgent crop spraying; later a keen gardener decided that essential strumming could not be postponed. Only the short act proceeded without an obbligato of protest. Knowing how these village feuds develop, I imagine Ingrams will have anti-aircraft batteries installed by next year.

Nor was that all: a new heating system threatened to strew the audience into somnolence, and illness in the cast had the stricken heroine silently mouthing her recitations on stage while they were sung in a fruity baritone from the pit. All of which did no great damage: *Le pescatrice* — "The Fisherwoman" — is early Haydn (1770) and not very good, and distractions of this nature did not come amiss.

This was the seventh Haydn opera to be given at Garsington, and quite right too: he was, after all, one of the first practitioners of country-house opera. Some of the performance material was lost in a fire at Esterháza in 1779, and the conductor Wasfi Karri filled the gaps with music from his other operas. The amiable Goldoni libretto deals with a rustic community in

RODNEY MILNES

"THE PLAY OF THE DECADE" IS BACK



Bill Nighy

Stella Gonet

in

NT Royal National Theatre PRODUCTION

"David Hare's bruising masterpiece"

DAILY TELEGRAPH

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CHOICE 1

The pianist Murray Perahia tops and tails his recital with Handel and Chopin

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall



CHOICE 2

Dora Bryan conjures up Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit* in Chichester

VENUE: Previews tonight at the Festival Theatre



CHOICE 3

Christopher Bruce's Rambert Dance Company performs in Edinburgh

VENUE: From tonight at the Festival Theatre



LITERATURE

Joyce, Austen and Dickens prove the maxim that second novels are what matters

LONDON

AN ERROR OF JUDGEMENT Stratford-upon-Avon Company's energetic performances with learning qualities mischievous, movement, mime, dance and just to produce a disturbing, funny and thought-provoking jolt at a judicial murder. Directed by Ann Cleary and Michael St. John. The Studio, 56 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6323). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.45pm; mat. Tues 7.45pm and Thurs 7.45pm. Until June 21.

MURRAY PERAHIA The virtuoso pianist offers a programme of music that includes Handel's Suite in D minor and Mendelssohn's Sonata in E-flat and Scherzo in B minor complete the programme. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-900 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm. Until June 21.

PRIZE-WINNING PIANISTS Two recitals by Ilyia Ilin and Arthur Rubinstein who have won the International Piano Competition. Ilin performs Schubert's Sonata in A minor and Rachmaninov's Sonata in B flat minor during his recital. Rubinstein's programme includes a new arrangement of Bach and Mozart by Lutz, together with extracts from Albeniz's Iberia. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). 6.30pm.

ELMERS A new musical from the creators of the hit musical *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. Directed by Peter Sellars. Opens 7pm. Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Sun 7.30pm.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Disney's film turned into a Broadway musical with music by Broadway's own Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman. The National, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat. 3.30pm.

THE CENSOR Anthony Heald's tough and witty drama about an infatuated censor and an establishment man makes

Royal Court Downstairs (Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 9000). Opens June 5. pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat. 3.30pm. Until June 14.

EL DANNY YANKEE West End debut to Jerry Lewis, reading an all-American cast in the Richard Adeney-Jerry Ross musical about the joys of being a Jew who's soul to the Jews. St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-577 1111). 7.30pm. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat. 3.30pm.

JOAN OF ARC Dead last year's Playwrights Festival winner Steven Smith's comedy set on a south London

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment, compiled by Gillian Maxey

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER Dora Bryan, Twigsy, Linda Lang and Steven Pacey among the cast in Noël Coward's comedy *The Blithe Spirit*. The ghost of Coward's dead wife has come up during a seance, tame the happily married author and his second wife in their marital home. Directed by Tim Luscombe. The Royal, 21 Park Lane, W1 (0171-781 3132). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm; mat. various times Thurs, Sat and some Sun. Opens on June 17, 7.45pm. Then in rep with Lady Windermere's Fan, 1980-81, August 3.

EDINBURGH Compass Theatre Company offers two programmes of contemporary dance. Today and tomorrow, the company performs Kim Brandwood's *Edelweiss* and a new work by David Lomax. On Friday and Saturday, the dancers perform a new work by Per Jonsson, Bruce's *Quicksilver* and Paul Taylor's *Airs*. Festival Pavilion, 100 The Strand, W1 (0171-931 5229). 6.30pm. Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London.

■ House full, return only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

answer to Dame Edna and sold to be Mendelssohn's *Leicester*. Althaea Iron, Twigsy, Linda Lang, Steven Pacey, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. 4pm.

■ POPCORN Ben Elton's blistering comedy about movie violence. A film director's son comes up when a couple of serial killers blame him for their misdeeds. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-934 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed, 7.30pm.

■ SKELETON Tanika Gupta, Sita Thobani and Sita's mother, Sita, adapt a story by Rabindranath Tagore about a medical student whose gift of a skeleton turns him into a woman at birth. Soho, 12 Dean Street, W1 (0171-420 0222). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until June 21.

■ THE GOODBYE GIRL Gary Wiskin. An emotional Sophie Powell in the Hamlet/Zipped musical version of Neil Simon's play. Dancer dumbed by one actor and landed with another graduate. Directed by Michael Blakemore. St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mat. 7pm. Wed, 8pm.

■ KING LEAR Ian Holm magnificently plays the father of a little. National, Colisseum, South Bank, SE1 (0171-923 2250). Tonight and Saturday, 8pm. Mat. 7pm.

■ DR LIVELY FROM BLOOMSBURY PARK Peter Uris returns for another look at the lost world of white middle-class life, including a visit from his redoubtable Mrs Eva Bucciendouf. South Africa's

second novel to Dame Edna and sold to be Mendelssohn's *Leicester*. Althaea Iron, Twigsy, Linda Lang, Steven Pacey, 7.30pm, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. 4pm.

■ THE CENSOR Anthony Heald's tough and witty drama about an infatuated censor and an establishment man makes

Royal Court Downstairs (Duke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 9000). Opens June 5. pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat. 3.30pm.

■ JOAN OF ARC Dead last year's Playwrights Festival winner Steven Smith's comedy set on a south London

PORTSMOUTH An exhibition by the painter and printmaker Jacqueline Mair opens today, continuing until 26 June. It consists of a collection of prints and complex compositions, together with her interest in Indian art and architecture. Many of her paintings of landscapes and still life incorporate emblematic animals such as lion, bull and peacock. In addition, Mair will be talking in the gallery, tomorrow at 7pm. Aspasia Gallery, 27 Broadmead Road, Southsea, W1 (01705 612181). Wed-Sat, noon-5pm; Sun, 2.30pm. Until June 13.

WELLINGBOROUGH Compass Theatre Company presents *The Castle*, Castle Way (01933 270 007). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

■ LONDON GALLERIES

ANNE JONES: David Hockney, Flowers, Fox, Sheep, Sun, 1970 (0171-781 3132).

ANTHONY GILL: Officer Andy Warhol, Gurs (0171-499 4100).

CHRIS BEAUCHIE SYDNEY HAYES: *Portrait of a Changeling* (0171-781 5651).

ANTONIE SAMON: Ceramics (0171-704 1131).

MARK BURGESS: *Tricycle* (0171-781 6000).

MONICA LARSEN: *Portrait of a Girl* (0171-781 6000).

ROBERT MINTON: *Portrait of a Girl* (0171-781 6000).



■ THEATRE 1

Leslie Caron turns on the old charisma to enchant Chichester as the writer George Sand



■ THEATRE 2

... while in Hampstead *All Things Considered* turns out to be an immensely enjoyable new play



■ DANCE

Birmingham Royal Ballet brings a bouncy panorama of American life to Covent Garden



■ POP

Brazil's most popular singer, Maria Bethania, offers a breathless show to Drury Lane

THEATRE: Flawed tale of two lovers in Chichester; a cracking debut in Hampstead; and a fine Scottish team effort

Soppiness is a cigar called Sand

On the Minerva's darkened stage the glowing end of a cigar is the first we see of the seemingly ageless Leslie Caron. Then the lights go up and she is standing there with her back to us, puffing away, sporting a plum-coloured tail coat and thrusting her hands (without the cigar) deep into trouser pockets like a Dickens dandy. She is being George Sand *née* Aurore Dupin, novelist, proto-feminist and lover of the more famous Frédéric Chopin.

A giant manuscript of semi-quavers leaping from stave to stave in the key of A acts as a screen across the rear of the stage. A silver candelabra stands on the Bechstein. Caron faces us, paces the floor, scatters ash on the rugs, thus confirming George's defiance of convention, and begins to speak of her tempestuous life with chip-chip. The French clarity of her open vowels still has the power to enchant, especially when followed by a sibilant, and 40 or more years after *Lili* and *Gigi*, her manner and movement continue to suggest a paradoxically high-spirited gravity. It would be good to see her in a play, but instead we have Bruno Villien's assemblage of letters written by Sand and Chopin on matters to do with one another.

Well, Villien cannot include this clever trick because he has a company of only two to play with, but his Chopin is the able concert pianist David Abramovitz, unsimply and suitably wrathlike, who coughs quietly and plays a round dozen of Chopin's works. Eudoes, Mazurkas and the like — alas, not the immortal Polonaise — and a not very good song, *Si j'étais l'oiseau*, not well sung by Caron.

The chosen musical items continue the mood established by the accompanying letters, melancholy during the disastrous winter on Majorca, tempestuous when the relationship is breaking up. These are naturally good to hear, and the first half of this 90-minute show makes an agreeable entertainment, but then flaws become evident. Only once do the two write to each other, so that communication between them must rely on smouldering glances and the occasional exchange of flowers. Chopin writes scarcely anything to anyone, making the show reliant on Sand, who comments interestingly on events but whose scraps of philosophy are tosh.

Added to which, Kado Kostzer's direction heaps on the heartbreak effects as though this was Hollywood in the Forties. Partly this is to give Caron something to do while Abramovitz is at work but, oh dear, she stands with arms outstretched against the semi-quavers when the screen turns blood-red, and is there again when he has passed on to that concert hall in the sky, hands pressed against the staves as though trying to find a way through a five-barred gate. Old-fashioned soppiness.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Suicide marks a debut to die for

Martin Esslin tells a tale of walking through London with Samuel Beckett. The sun was shining, they were about to watch a match at Lord's, and someone in the party cheerfully remarked that it was the sort of day that made one glad to be alive. "Hmm," said the great dramatist, cricket lover and fatalist. "I wouldn't go as far as that."

David Freeman, the ethics professor at the centre of Ben Brown's immensely enjoyable play, would appreciate the story. There he is, with whisky, pills, plastic bag and elastic band, all ready for the final, logical jump. Beckett could not bring himself to make; and suddenly a friend materialises on the answering machine, followed by the knock on the door that proclaims the arrival of the electrician whom the university has hired to do the rewiring. "How's life?" ask both men, and do not pause for an answer.

You will not be surprised to hear that *All Things Considered* was first presented last year at Alan Ayckbourn's theatre in Scarborough.

All Things Considered

Hampstead

ough. If Simon Gray were to launch a competing playhouse in downtown Scunthorpe, it would make an equally suitable offering. There were times when I was reminded of Ayckbourn's *absurd Person Singular*, in which a distraught wife makes a series of botched suicide attempts, and others when I thought of Gray's *Otherwise Engaged*, in which endless intruders deny a publisher the chance to listen privately to Wagner. But although Brown is only in his twenties, and this is his first full-length play, he writes with an assurance and command of the stage that cannot be borrowed or bought.

Christopher Godwin, gaunt and sad-eyed, is the rationalist who has decided that, with his loved ones gone and his big book published, life has nothing left to offer. Alan Strachan's cast also includes Michael Lumsden as a sexoholic col-

league, Holly Hayes as an American ethicist who supports capital punishment because it means "optimum organ distribution" for people needing spare-part surgery. Susie Blake as a lovelorn librarian, Timothy Kightley as a chaplain who thinks suicide is "not a very good example" to the young, and Jane Slavin as a brash journalist. The last is a bit over the top, yelling "you're dead" at David when he refuses to be interviewed about his former wife's insulting memoirs and then returning to ask even more impudent questions about self-slaughter; but that is forgivable, given the hilarious misunderstandings that occur between them.

Does Brown reconcile humour with pain, as Ayckbourn and Gray sometimes do, and both with philosophical musings about life and death, as Michael Frayn has done? Not always, perhaps. Some may find the play cold, some will wish it deeper. But, my goodness, this is a cracking debut.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

The seemingly ageless Leslie Caron as the writer George Sand in *Nocturne for Lovers* at Chichester



A licence to thrill

IN THE city there are eight million stories. David Greig's new Edinburgh-set play for those reinvented political veterans, the 784 company, tells half a dozen of them and weaves the separate strands to sum up the hopes, dreams and fears of a nation in flux.

The unseen deity who provides a focus for all this is Sean Connery, probably Scotland's most successful export next to whisky. Rumoured to be staying at the capital's top hotel, he sets local heads and hearts aflutter. Frustrated blue-rinsed matron Eppie wants to recapture a girlhood memory, and forms an unholy

Caledonia Dreaming

Edinburgh

alliance with Darren, a high-falutin' boy from a local estate with dreams of leaving.

Stuart is a new Labour MEP whose mission is to transform Edinburgh from Toytown into an Olympic city. He attempts to enlist Lauren, a sauna worker, into his grand schemes. Used to making men's dreams real, she spurns his dirty money, and finds some kind of salvation with Jerry, a would-be Sinatra.

Then there's Lawrence, the unseen taxi driver who shunts them from station to station, with dreams of his own. In between all this are a series of upfront state-of-the-nation addresses from an elliptical word-playing chorus who merrily ditch clapped-out polemics in favour of subtlety and style.

Whereas Greig's previous outings boldly voyaged on to a series of unnamed East European outposts, *Caledonia Dreaming* brings everything back on home, Iain Reekie's slick production (at the Traverse) guides a fine, five-strong ensemble gently round the highways and byways of lyrical, impressionistic monologue until they meet at the crossroads. Billy Boyd, Anne Kidd, John Macauley, Neil McKinven and Jill Riddiford rise to the occasion with sensitivity and grace. Evelyn Barbour's playbox set is a delight, while David Young's soundtrack skirts the kitsch to be evocative and moving. Scotland the Brave? Aye, all that and more.

NEIL COOPER



Touring America on the fly

The triple bill which opened Birmingham Royal Ballet's Covent Garden season on Monday night could have been called "Images of America". For whether by design or accident, the three works — all of them new to London — tell a tale of 20th-century American life.

Olive Hindle, a young BRB house choreographer, is inspired by the Jazz Age in his newest work, *Bright Young Things*. His choice of music is excellent — Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F — and his jazz-inflected classical dance language is impressively fluent. But as an evocation of New York nightlife in the Roaring Twenties, *Bright Young Things* is pretty timid.

The slight scenario houses two contrasting female leads: Letitia Muller is the masculine cross-dresser, the woman in a dark suit; Monica Zamora is the ultra-feminine vamp, the woman in a white dress. The men they dance with (Sergio Poberecic, Joseph Cipolla and Chi Cao) are a nondescript trio of lads on the town.

Hindle fills his nightclub setting

with eight more couples and plenty of gushing choreography but without the brilliance of effect that Ashton did in *La Valse* 40 years ago.

As for the leads, Zamora is too gamine to be sultry, but Muller waltzes away with all the honours, courtesy of a voluptuous and sparkly performance. David Blight's black on black designs only contribute to the general lassitude.

The image of America evoked by Lila York's *Sanctum* is also a dark one, but this time it is the dehumanising black hole of technology. Although inspired in part by Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*, *Sanctum* is very much a ballet of the computer age. Robert Parker (impressively good) is the man in the middle of a struggle between nature and machine, humiliated by mad

doctors and manhandled by automata before emerging into a new dawn of human warmth.

Set to contrasting scores by Ravel (the second movement of his Piano Concerto in G) and by the contemporary American composer Christopher Rouse, *Sanctum*'s language is well-developed and varied, with frenetic confusion and skittish desperation given strong choreographic shape. But York's peace and love ending does not quite manage to avoid the pitfall of facile statement.

David Bintley's *The Nutcracker Sweeties* is all about the America of Broadway. The infectious music is by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn (after Tchaikovsky, of course), and played live by the brilliant Echoes of Ellington ensemble. The cast of characters includes pom-pom girls, drum majorettes, sailors, GIs, Candy Kane and Sugar Rum Cherry. Is it any wonder *Nutcracker Sweeties* has turned out to be such a big hit?

DEBRA CRAINE

link twice, and you risked missing an entire song. As if to make up for lost time, the Brazilian pop star Maria Bethania ensured that this rare London performance crammed in as many hits as possible — almost too many for comfort, in fact.

Brief but crammed with incident, the programme had the breathless pace of an extended medley, one tune shading imperceptibly into another. With a large portion of London's Brazilian community partying in the Theatre Royal's stalls, the atmosphere was suitably festive. Even so, neutral observers could have been forgiven for feeling adrift as the sister of the influential singer-songwriter Caetano Veloso hurtled through her songlist.

If the show largely lacked the nuances and intimacy of Veloso's glorious South Bank concert last year, Bethania remains an undeniably charismatic performer with the hippyish looks of a greying

Concise Latin lessons

JAZZ

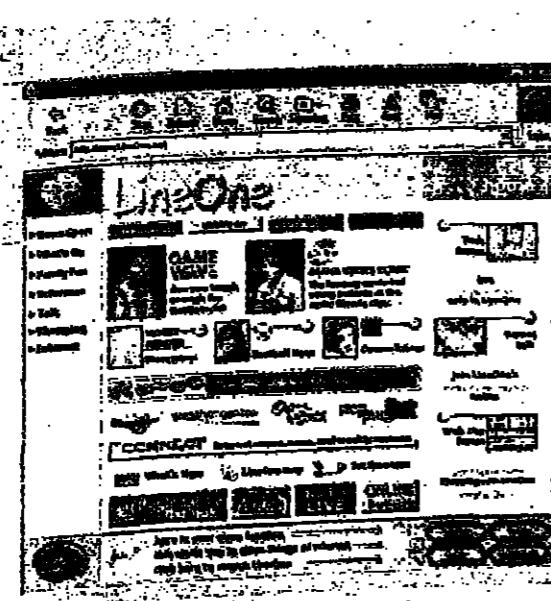
Cubans and their dance floor allies to besiege Ronnie Scott's for the one-night stand by Ruben Gonzalez. Thanks to the London-based World Circuit label, the septuagenarian pianist has just released a debut solo disc — simply called *Introducing Ruben Gonzalez* — that is sure to be counted as one of the recordings of the year.

The dapper Gonzalez is said to suffer from arthritis in the fingers but there was precious little sign of it in this set. Bass player Orlando Lopez anchored a first-rate band that blended the rhythms of the guaracha and the danzon with an unfussy jazz sensibility.

Gonzalez can lock into hypnotic salsa patterns when required, but his real strength lies in the long string of lush, rhythmically alert chords that tumble virtually the entire length of the keyboard. If Erroll Garner had been raised in Havana, he might have sounded like this.

It was the turn of the

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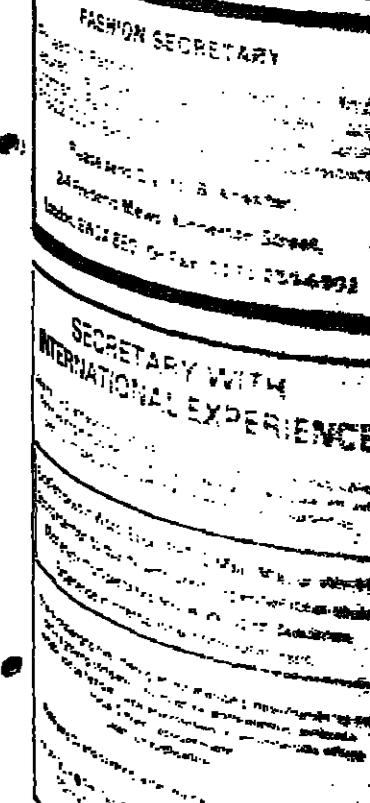
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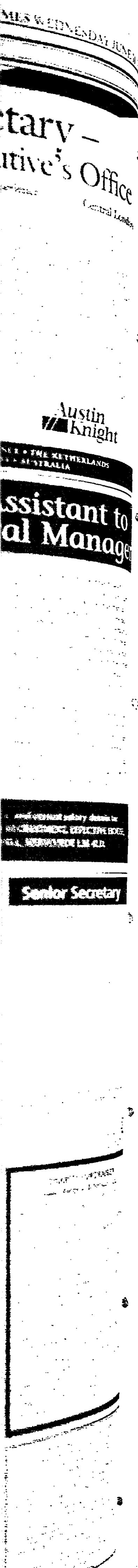
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Many exciting, language and language - including: Sales Administrator - Temp or permanent, 21 hrs. Tel: 0171 473 6262. BILINGUAGROUP Reg Co., 49 Middle St., London W1R 1LA

Your Key Investment Bankers.
SBC Warburg
A DIVISION OF SWISS BANK CORPORATION

OPEN DAY AT
HAYS BANKING SECRETARIAL
18th June 1997 8.30am - 7.00pm

Long term assignments exist within this high profile investment bank for individuals with secretarial experience, preferably within corporate finance. You will need to be proficient in Word for Windows, shorthand or speedwriting with a typing speed of over 50 words per minute. These demanding roles require organisational strengths, excellent teamwork skills and the ability to think on one's feet. You will be expected to handle constant internal and external calls, and knowledge of Lotus CC-Mail would also be an advantage.

If you feel you have the necessary skills and motivation to work in this high calibre company, come and find out more at our open day at 41-42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB.

Telephone: 0171 638 7003

WA
£22K + OT
+ BKG Bens

A TRUE ASSISTANT

Work at the sharp end of banking dealing with VIP clients, organising marketing trips, presentations and acting as a true Lynch pin. This is a fully involved position where you will be left to use your initiative and play a proactive role in the business. You must be highly motivated, polished and professional with a solid secretarial background and have the drive to develop the job into more than a pure support role.

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VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

SECRETARY/CO-ORDINATOR
Bedford Park, Hammersmith & Fulham

We are looking for bright and cheerful individuals with excellent word for windows and typing ability to support our busy and dynamic office at the above branches. For further details please write enclosing your C.V. to:

Helen Sutton
265A Lavender Hill
Battersea, London, SW11 5TB
Closing date for application 18th June 1997.

NO PRIMADONNAS PLEASE!
A small friendly company in EC1, we are searching for an intelligent, reliable and hardworking PA. Use your initiative, diplomacy and proven organisational skills to assist our Chairman in his daily activities and help maintain relations with his international client base. If you are aged between 30-40, have excellent shorthand & secretarial skills and enjoy the stimulation of a busy environment, please reply with CV and covering letter to Box No 3618 (no agencies). Salary AAE.

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
- CIRCA £25,000 p.a.

A rapidly expanding dynamic firm of London Estate Agents require a personable and astute Administration Manager. Based at our office in Notting Hill Gate you will be responsible for the recruitment and training of secretarial teams, the management of our fleet, computers and systems and in general the overall efficiency of this company.

Age 30-40 years you will be able to illustrate a track record in a similar consumer focused industry.

Applications in writing only with a detailed CV and a handwritten letter of application.

Ref: PS/AM Farren Sutaria, 89, Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JZ.

LEADING PR CONSULTANCY

based in the City are seeking a reliable, well presented PA to assist the Head of Department in their Corporate Division. The successful candidate will have good organisational skills, proficiency in arranging travel, events and presentations, a good knowledge of Microsoft Word, and a good working knowledge of WordPerfect 6.0, typing and 40+ - WordPerfect an advantage. Previous experience in PR or the City would also be useful. Salary depending on age and experience.

Applications in writing to: Christine Brown, Personnel Manager, Ludgate Communication Limited, 111 Charing Cross Road, London EC1M 6AA.

FASHION SECRETARY

For leading Fashion Agency working for M.D. requires excellent computer skills and shorthand. Fashion exp. pref. age 22+. Salary £18-22,000+. Benefits for the right candidate.

Please send C.V. to: S. Rossiter.

2-4 Frederic Mews, Kinnerton Street,

London, SW1X 8EQ. Or Fax 0171-259-6902

SECRETARY WITH
INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

We are a busy pharmaceutical consultancy in Wandsworth Common, London. We are working in mainland Europe for an American Client base, and seeking a first class secretary with the following skills to support us:

Excellent skills in Word, Excel, PPT, E-Mail (Mac or Win95). Strong attention to quality with good organisational ability. Must enjoy multiple tasks and working to deadlines. Experience in international communication.

This is a challenging role, offering an outstanding opportunity to be part of a growing company. You must be enthusiastic, possess initiative, and be fluent in English environment in a friendly office. Salary £18,000.

Please send CV and covering letter, quoting reference 01077 to: The Game Group • Fifty Two • Worcester Road • London • SW18 2RH Telephone 0181 873 5229 or Telex 0181 873 1137 Email: Email@game.co.uk

MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSCalling all College Leavers!
FIRST JOB - GREAT START

£12-14,000

This start company based in SW1Y are looking for a Graduate Secretary to assist the Managing Director and his Secretary to work as a Senior Manager. You will assist in day to day office management, deal with incoming and outgoing correspondence, handle telephone, file, photocopy, type, etc. You will also be required to type 35wpm and be very good at presentation skills. You will be working in a friendly, relaxed environment and you will be offered a full induction and training programme. This is a great opportunity for a graduate to start their career in a professional environment.

Telephone: 0171 731 5341 Facsimile: 0171 731 5260

MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSA Sloane Street...
SECURITY/OFFICE MANAGER

£18,000

This dynamic, expanding company, operating in the heart of Oxford Street, are looking for a friendly Security Manager to work with the Managing Director and his Secretary. You will be required to manage and maintain the security of the premises, deal with incoming and outgoing correspondence, handle telephone, file, photocopy, type, etc. You will be required to type 35wpm and be very good at presentation skills. You will be working in a friendly, relaxed environment and you will be offered a full induction and training programme. This is a great opportunity for a graduate to start their career in a professional environment.

Telephone: 0171 731 5341 Facsimile: 0171 731 5260

MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSSECURITY, COMFORT AND A
GREAT BOSS!

Secretary £20,000

This small St James's company are looking for a friendly Security Manager to work with the Managing Director and his Secretary. You will be required to manage and maintain the security of the premises, deal with incoming and outgoing correspondence, handle telephone, file, photocopy, type, etc. You will be required to type 35wpm and be very good at presentation skills. You will be working in a friendly, relaxed environment and you will be offered a full induction and training programme. This is a great opportunity for a graduate to start their career in a professional environment.

Telephone: 0171 731 5341 Facsimile: 0171 731 5260

MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSTRAINING, PROSPECTS &
A BIG CHALLENGE!

Up to £12,000

This highly professional and dynamic company are looking for a Graduate Secretary based in SW1Y who will be offered a full induction and training programme. This is a great opportunity for a graduate to start their career in a professional environment.

Telephone: 0171 731 5341 Facsimile: 0171 731 5260

Temps
Up to £10 per hour

Hobstones are proud to supply temporary secretarial and administrative staff to Unilever Plc. This highly recognised organisation offers a wide variety of long and short term assignments in their head office at Blackfriars.

They offer excellent benefits for temporary staff including subsidised restaurant and bar facilities.

Hobstones would like to hear from experienced secretaries with:

- Word for Windows / Wordperfect for Windows
- Lotus 123
- Freelance
- Shorthand an advantage

Whether you have one or all of the above skills please call Victoria Caush in the City office on

0171 550 7000

RECRUITMENT

HOBSTONES

LOOK OUT!

With what we've got on offer - there could be a stampede!

SECRETARY

£16,000

This would suite a well educated second jobber, who's looking to build on their shorthand and WP skills, and wants to develop a career in a large company. As well as general secretarial duties, you will also be involved in specialist safety & emergency training for staff.

FLEET SECRETARY

£15,000 + Benefits

E1

A great chance to further your secretarial career, with a position that would make an excellent second job for someone who has the initiative to learn new skills, including expanding on your systems knowledge.

REGISTRATIONS ADMIN

£14,000

E1

Negotiation with banks and liaising with clients are both vital if you are to efficiently organise the payroll, calculate dividends and invoice payments. So as well as accounts experience, this job also requires someone who can communicate on all levels.

MAKING LIFE EASIER FOR OUR PERMANENT
APPLICANTS, WE'RE OPENING LATE EVERY
THURSDAY UNTIL 8PM. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Call 0171 6060011
12 Groveland Court, Bow Lane, London, EC4M 9EH.



success
The company: Leading international investment bank. London's Headquarters in the heart of the West End.

The role: Fantastic opportunity to use your French in a team role working in a dynamic and fun environment.

The essentials: Word/Powerpoint/Confident French 5x GCSE's - Team focused individuals.

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 1166 Fax: 0171 494 1169
CITY Tel: 0171 283 4664 Fax: 0171 283 4994

**junior
secretary/
COLLEGE
leaver**

£14,000
GORDON-YATES
A junior for recruitment

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4499
CITY Tel: 0171 283 4664 Fax: 0171 283 4994

TEMPTING TIMES

- Are you aged 18-40?
- Have a good working knowledge of MS Office?
- Good audio and shorthand skills?

REWARDS

- Holiday pay
- Highly competitive rates
- Work 52 weeks per year
- Chance to win £1,000 in prize draws
- Friendly, professional and dedicated consultants

INTERESTED?

CALL NOW FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW!

TEL: 0171 734 8484

FAX: 0171 734 8501

PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT

Fun in Fashion!

£16-19K
+ Exc. Bens

Would you like to work for an international high street fashion retailer, based in the heart of the West End? We have a number of team secretarial and PA positions in this young, social, fast-paced environment. As well as having loads of energy and initiative, you must have good knowledge of Word, 18 months secretarial experience and 55wpm. Call Lucy Thomas or Lucy Bonner on 0171 434 4512 to hear more about these exciting roles.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

BOATS GLORIOUS BOATS....

£14,000 - £16,000

...and no more commuting! Combine your love of boats and the feeling of freedom! This exciting, growing company led by extremely talented and likeable MD has a rare opportunity for a College Leaver or "2nd Jobber", ideally with proven work experience, to tackle the role of Office Manager/Assistant. With your creative flair you will quickly become involved in various projects, deal with clients, learn how a small company runs and actually see the finished result! 40wpm, Windows and ideally Spreadsheet exp. Age 20's. For more information, please ring...

ANDERSON HOARE
0171 824 8821

WORLD OF FASHION

Well known Internationally our Client wants a fluent German/English "Team Player" to join their expanding Export Sales team. Must have at least one year exp in similar role. Assisting in organising Trade Exhibitions. Work to deadlines and have a sense of humour is a must in the fun, frantic environment. Computer Lit. Lots of liaison with Clients and Agents in Germany.

Telephone: 0171 499 0700

Researcher
Executive Search

£25,000

Fantastic opportunity to join this international firm of head hunters based in EC2. Working closely with the consultants, you will have responsibility for various research projects with the ultimate goal of identifying and contacting potential candidates. Other duties will include press monitoring and database management. A Levels and at least 5 years financial experience preferable. 45 wpm typing. Please call Sarah Burt on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

DUTCH & FRENCH

£22,000 + Bens

Top flight bilingual PA role for a Dutch/French speaker. Mainly senior admin role with lots of international client contact and real scope. 50 wpm typing.

DTP ASSISTANTS
£20,000 + Bens

We have several roles for DTP secretaries and DTP professionals. If you have a flair for design and enjoy working to deadlines, then there are plenty to get you involved in all areas of the publishing world.

PUBLISHING
PA/EDITORIAL ASST
£21,000

An exciting opportunity for a creative graduate to provide support to the Director of Reference Books in the top Publishing Co. Lots of scope to get involved in all areas of the publishing world.

CREME DE LA CREME

PRESIDENT'S PA
£25,000 - £30,000

Unique opportunity to join expanding national company at the highest level. As a confident and socially aware individual you will be responsible for managing the company Mayfair residence and staff as well as providing senior PA support. 60wpm.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FASHION PA
£22,000

Immediate start, retail experience not necessary. You will be a key figure in this busy, creative company, providing full support to the Managing Director and Operations Director and supervising two junior staff. 70wpm typing, shorthand.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHAIRMAN'S PA
£25,000

A varied and interesting position where you will have responsibility for daily office management. There will be client liaison, budgets and expenses. Pleasant team environment. 80wpm shorthand. Windows package.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PROPERTY
£23,000

A Chairman's PA role with responsibility and involvement in running a successful business. An extremely varied role entailing liaison, supervision, deadlines and the scope to build on your property sector knowledge.

25-35. 100wpm.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

AMBITIOUS?
£22,000

The role of research Secretary / assistant with this city bank offers development and promotion. Producing presentations of analysis using Powerpoint and investigating research reports, you will stay busy and interested. Full bank benefits. 50wpm + MS Office.

Please telephone on 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PAMPER YOURSELF
£17,000 + exc bens

If you are an experienced and successful professional, you will have the opportunity to progress your career in a highly successful and dynamic company. You will be involved in the planning, preparation and delivery of special events, organising from confirmation, to the day of the event. You will be required to have excellent organisational and time management skills, as well as a good understanding of the business environment. Only high calibre candidates with a proven track record in this field will be considered. Excellent team working skills are essential. Previous experience in the travel industry is a must. Full training will be provided.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.
MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

CHAIRMAN'S SEC £20,000+ exc bens

Do you desire to work at a senior level? If so you will love this role. Organise your time at this high flying international City firm. Co-ordinate and manage social events, organise from confirmation, to the day of the event. You will be required to have excellent organisational and time management skills, as well as a good understanding of the business environment. Only high calibre candidates with a proven track record in this field will be considered. Excellent team working skills are essential. Previous experience in the travel industry is a must. Full training will be provided.

Please telephone 0171 377 3777 Fax 0171 377 5079
MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

STYLISH
RECEPTIONIST
TO £25K

Exceptional receptionist required for busy, varied, dynamic role in major P.C. Must be professional, immaculate, with good communication skills and very high standards.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES
0171-468 0400

REGAN AND DEAN + ADLAND

23 Old Bond Street, London W1X 9SA

YOUNG PAs and SECRETARIES
Career Minded?

We specialise in Creative and Entertainment companies, including Advertising, PR, Design, TV, Film and Event Management. Confidence, humour and style are essential qualities, along with secretarial training and competent IT skills. There are plenty of opportunities to move into a role with career scope.

Call Sarah, Melanie, Kim or Kate
Telephone: 0171 409 3244 Fax: 0171 409 7430

£30,000 - Personal PA

The globe trotting Chief Executive of this investment house requires a charismatic PA whose main task is to act as the lynch-pin of his business. Being continually on the move, he relies upon his PA to be the co-ordinator of both his private life and his business activities. Skills 100/70. Age around 35.

0171 509 5328
CITY RECRUITMENT SECRETARIES

LATE
IN THE CITY
TOMORROW NIGHT
AT 12 DEVONSHIRE ROW,
EC2, (LIVERPOOL STREET)
4.30 - 7.30

Come and join our Senior Consultants and find out about the many exciting opportunities they have on offer.

Current vacancies cover a wide section of industry from Banking to the Arts World and as we specialise in senior appointments the salaries are all over £50,000. If you are unable to join us, please call to book an appointment.

Cathy Daly on
0171 499 5881
Adecco
Elite

Aldrich & Company

PRIVATE CLIENTS - SEC / ASSISTANT
£16,000

Assistant required by Private Client Stockbroker to help with all aspects of the business - lots of client contact, some research and an opportunity to learn about the markets and take financial exams. Secretarial experience essential. Call Sarah Turnbull.

CITY RECRUITMENT
Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

PA TO MD
EVENTS ORGANISATION C.£18000

London-based party planners seek ready-made PA to provide right hand support for very MD. You will be involved in the day to day running of the business, including the preparation of reports, contracts, as well as managing full secretarial back-up. Excellent opportunities for someone who wants to learn and have promotion prospects for themselves.

Please note essential skills are required, including 65wpm, computer skills, telephone, shorthand, and Microsoft Word.

Call Middleton Jeffers on
Tel 0171 377 3777 Fax 0171 287 3717

MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

EXECUTIVE
1 YEAR CONTRACT
£10 ph

Our City requires top quality experienced receptionists for a minimum of 1 year contract. You will be providing high level of customer service, and will require 1 year of senior level receptionist experience and basic key board skills. If you are well presented with excellent interpersonal skills, please contact Hazel Neale or Rachel Higgins at late Appointments on 0171 408 0024.

Hazel
TEMP SPECIALISTS

PA TO PROJECT DIRECTOR
CHELSEA DESIGN/ARCHITECTS

£20,000 p.a. + bens

Creative Co resp enthusiastic PA with prev exp to do all round PA duties, for a young dynamic Director. For more info call Rachel

0171 420 8008
10 Bedford Street, London WC2B 8HE
Fax: 0171 420 8044

CONCEPT
PARTNERSHIP
RECRUITMENT

On y va!

Join French Car Co. in their Personnel Dept. Assisting Personnel Director. To represent current PA and manage future recruitment. Supervising French Students on exchange placements. Love a challenge? Good organizer? At least 3 yrs exp. Would consider return to work or career change, must have good computer skills, and worked at Executive level. Lots of liaison with HQ in France. Must have fluent English.

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10 Bedford Street, London WC2B 8HE
Fax: 0171 420 8044

PROPERTY
£23,000

A Chairman's PA role with responsibility and involvement in running a successful business. An extremely varied role entailing liaison, supervision, deadlines and the scope to build on your property sector knowledge.

25-35. 100wpm.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MISON
RECRUITMENTDIRECTORS SECRETARY
c£20,000 + Full Package

Major Investment Bankers

As part of an elite team of support staff, you will have involvement at the highest level within a client driven environment. Multi-million pound deals are both structured and closed. This position offers the opportunity for a senior secretary to fully utilise their initiative, organisational skills, proven experience and some additional ability including short term travel. The day will be spent balancing a mix of client meetings, travel, corporate and social events. Professionalism, confidence, superb interpersonal skills and self motivation will be highly rewarded with both an excellent benefit package and the prestige offered by this outstanding organization.

Tel 0171-583-5441 Fax 0171-583-1784

CHELSEA
GIRL
£18,000 p.a.

If you enjoy being a PA Secretary, offering a high level of service to clients, then this is the job for you. We have three lovely jobs for lovely bosses in Chelsea. These offer a great working day but let you have time for your hobbies. 30wpm, MS Word, Typing.

JOYCE GUINNESS
PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Admin Services Manager
c£25,000 + Bens

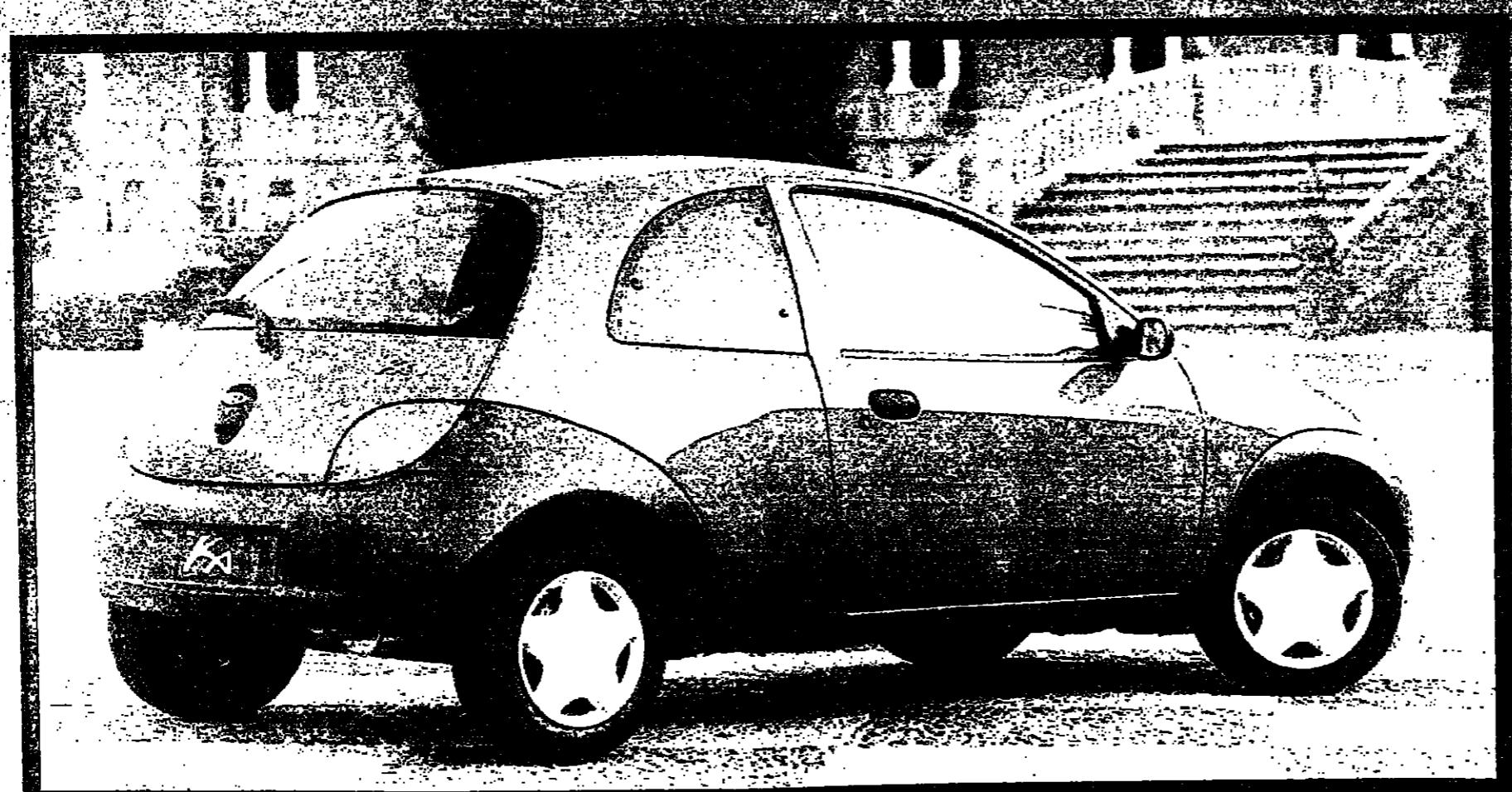
An opportunity for a highly organised PA/Office Manager to work within a fast-paced Advertising Research Agency. This successful and expanding business requires a Manager to co-ordinate two office sites and oversee quality throughout the support functions. Responsibilities include facilities management, liaison with IT on systems & network issues, health and safety regulations and monitoring the quality of documents produced throughout the company. To secure an interview, you must have solid secretarial/management skills and good working knowledge of Harvard Graphics or PowerPoint.

6 Grosvenor Place, London W1X 2AA
Fax: 0171 589 8807

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

Ford Ka worth £7,500



To coincide with *Crème 97*, *The Executive*

Secretary Show, we offer you the chance to

win a Ford Ka, the curvy car that has

become a four-wheel design

statement for the nineties. It is worth

£7,500. The stylish Ka gives a terrific drive. Neat

and nimble, it has excellent handling and

roadholding. In town the tightest parking space

is yours, while on the open road the response is

better than many a larger car. Nearly two feet

longer than a Mini, the eye-catching Ka

has a 1.3-litre four-cylinder engine and

a five-speed gearbox with a top speed

of 90mph. Fuel consumption averages 48 miles to

the gallon. The Ka is a classy, classless car

startling and brilliantly designed.



HOW TO ENTER

You can see the Ka on *The Times* stand at Olympia 2 today. Thursday and Friday where there will also be details of how to enter. Simply call our hotline number, below, before midnight on Wednesday June 18, with your answer to this question:

On average how many miles to the gallon can you get from a Ka?

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries.

Normal TNL rules apply.

0891 555 920

Calls cost 50p per minute

CHANGING TIMES

Judy Ferguson

STOP PUBLISHING AT
OUR EXPENSES

TOP PUBLISHING AT
OUR EXPENSES

TOP PUBLISHING AT
OUR EXPENSES

CREME DE LA CREME

Hays Banking Personnel

SECRETARIAL DIVISION

BANKING RECEPTIONIST

CITY
A prestigious Blue Chip European bank is looking to recruit a highly polished, experienced Receptionist to work in their city base. The right candidate will be articulate and calm under pressure, and accustomed to dealing with very senior figures in banking. ref: se/20645.

CORPORATE FINANCE PA

to £16,500 + Bens + O/T
Great opportunity for an experienced banking PA with some Spanish and top notch MS Office/Secretarial skills. Involving research, presentation work and client contact, the ideal candidate will be immediately presented and confident. ref: se/20637

SUMMER TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

CITY £9 - £11.00 P/hr
Are you saving for your holidays? Looking for a challenging position? With Summer approaching we are looking for first class, team secretaries with proven city experience. We have a variety of bookings of various lengths at high profile international banks. If you have a knowledge of Word, WPS, PowerPoint, Excel, and a typing speed of over 50 wpm, call us today for an immediate interview.

TRADING FLOOR SECRETARIES

(Various Positions) £10.00 P/hr
Are you looking to work in a busy and exciting environment? If so this thriving U.S. Investment Bank located in the city is interested in you. Previous Trading floor experience is required and a good knowledge of W4W, Excel, PowerPoint and at least 55 wpm typing is essential. This bank can offer you long term temporary opportunity so give us a call today and further your career in a trading floor role.

41/42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB.
Tel: 0171 638 7003. Fax: 0171 628 5057

WE WANT YOU AS A NEW RECRUIT!

Working with some of Central London's leading businesses this is your chance to become a new recruit - take a look & see!

TEAM SECRETARY £14,500 LADBROKE GROVE
Enthusiastic, team-spirited Secretary is urgently needed to secure this varied & involved post. 2/3 years experience, preferably in a Fashion/Import environment, coupled with bags of initiative, as you'll act as the main contact point for clients & suppliers on behalf of this small firm. Ideal for those living locally, this is a truly 'hands on' role which offers a respected role with solid prospects.

SECRETARY £15,000 MAIDA VALE
You love talking to irate customers on the phone. You love your Director running around the office firing off ideas. You love juggling a busy work schedule using your flair with MSOffice. But most of all, because you're a bright, committed Secretary with the potential to go far, that's why this dynamic Sales team will love you!

SECRETARY £15,000 BAKER STREET
Treat yourself to a job that you can try for size! Initially a temp to perm contract, this is more of a traditional Secretarial role where you can use your excellent range of Microsoft skills at 60 wpm to the full. But there's also a creative aspect to the role, where your input could really make a difference, & the team are really fun, so - why not give it a go!

Call REBEKAH or DANIELLE now on 0171 935 7248.
111 Baker Street, London, W1M 1PE.

Office Angels
Recruitment Consultants

TASTE Temporary SUCCESS...
These are examples of recent bookings with just some of our clients - new bookings are coming in all the time!
Call Jo, Clare or Rachel now.

WESTEND Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 4499
CITY Tel: 0171 283 4664 Fax: 0171 283 4994

Judy Farquharson Ltd.

WESTMINSTER, WHITEHALL and BRUSSELS
An excellent opportunity for a highly experienced skills to join a busy, international Government Relations Consultancy in Central London. Although the role is very much 'i', you must be happy to work as part of a young team in an open plan office. All usual PA skills will be required, but a bright, focused person will be encouraged to develop their role and take on lots more responsibility. Salary £18,000+.

FASHION + DESIGN
We are seeking experienced Office Manager with loads of energy and a real love of organising & working in a fast, hectic PR agency. Working in a creative design, from basic culture to high street style. You must have 2+ years' experience, have excellent communication skills, and be a self-starter with the confidence and ability to work as part of a talented young team. Salary £18,000+.

Please contact Martine Duyzings in strictest confidence.
47 New Bond St, London W1Y 9HA.
Tel: 0171-493 8824 Fax: 0171-493 7161
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

DESKTOP PUBLISHING AT ITS BEST DTP OPERATORS

Desktop Appointments is providing the ideal opportunity to use your Word, Excel and PowerPoint skills in a dynamic client driven environment. The ideal candidate will have proven ability in producing highly polished documents and presentations. You must be fluent in either Spanish/Portuguese/Italian or German with a minimum typing speed of 50wpm.

Please call Michelle Howard to book an appointment as soon as possible or alternatively fax or post your cv:
7 Bircham Lane, London EC3Y 9BY.
Tel: 0171 626 2150 Fax: 0171 626 2092
e-mail: appoint@devonshire.co.uk

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CENTRE POINT GROUP
BANKING AND SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

Young Career PA £26,000

Prestigious and fast growing firm of Corporate Financiers are currently recruiting a secretary/PA who wants to be part of a fast track company. Working for 2 executives, you should be a good fit with excellent interpersonal skills, well presented and confident with very good Word, Excel and PowerPoint. If you have high standards, unlimited flexibility and are aged between 21 and 35, call Averil Carr on:

SECRETARY TO GM £20,000 + benefits

A excellent opportunity to work for an int'l company in EC2. The successful candidate must have good in EC2 and Excel, preferably 'A' level standard of education, be highly organised, numerate & capable of working on their own initiative. Prof age 25 - 30.

Quest International Recruitment, 100 Finsbury Square, London EC2R 8AB Tel: 0171 796 4615 Fax: 0171 796 4630

16 St Albans Place, London EC3A 6DP Tel: 0171 588 5888 Fax: 0171 588 8010

harder

0171 494 4466 266221 266222 266223

spirited
PAs

The company: International drinks company with a portfolio of market leading brands.

The role: To provide full sec/ admin support at director Level; Presentations; Liaison.

The essentials: Initiative, min 4 years sec/ exp; graphics package (freelance or Powerpoint); AmiPro (or W4W); 55+wpm typing; Languages Desirable.

WEST END Tel: 0171 494 4466 Fax: 0171 494 4499
CITY Tel: 0171 283 4664 Fax: 0171 283 4994

ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITY

£25,000

The dynamic Chairman of this entrepreneurial telecommunications company requires an organised and efficient Personal Assistant to provide comprehensive secretarial support and to act as a lynchpin and ambassador. He will fully delegate responsibilities and so an analytical and creative mind will be necessary to develop the role and to make the most of the research opportunities available. Excellent organisational skills and 100/60 are essential.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

FIRST RECRUITMENT CENTRE

INT'L SALES ASSISTANT £14,000 + BENS
Int'l co. in W3 seeks PC literate marketing/planing assistant. Involves analysing data, producing reports and suggesting improvements. Business based analytical skills etc.

MARKETING - ADMIN ROLE £14,000 + BENS
Sales based co. seeks organised, PC literate support person to coordinate demonstrations, analyse sales figures, prepare presentation documents.

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RACING: FRENCH 2,000 GUINEAS WINNER HEADS BETTING FOR ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES

Daylami favoured for Ascot showdown

By CHRIS MCGRATH

IN A summer of giddy revivalism for British sport, bookmakers yesterday offered a sobering — and characteristic — correction of perspective. Ladbrokes, opening a book on the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot next Tuesday, has taken an unsentimental view of the merit of last month's 2,000 Guineas, won by Entrepreneur.

Daylami, flamboyant winner of the French equivalent, shades favouritism at 9-4 over

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MR SPONGE (4.20 Salisbury)
Next best: Whirrawhile (6.40 Newmarket)

the Irish 2,000 Guineas winner, Desert King (5-2), while the Luca Cumani-trained Potent, a close third at Newmarket, is available at 4-1.

Desert King will be seeking to ignite once more the fortunes of Michael Tabor, who suffered a spectacular setback with Entrepreneur.

The Newmarket runner-up, Revoque, has also run below expectations since and will miss Ascot in favour of being prepared for the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood.



Gift Token, right, storms home to initiate a 440-1 double for Kieren Fallon at Salisbury yesterday

After Poteen, Ladbrokes rates the unlucky Newmarket fifth, Zamindar, a 5-1 chance, and the fourth, Starborough, gave the Guineas form some embellishment when winning in France, but connections suggested that he had improved for going round a bend.

That is precisely where

Michael Stoute, Entrepreneur's trainer, and Tabor are being driven by the media, picking through the ashes of their Epsom dreams. Stoute was yesterday still awaiting the result of various checks on the horse.

Fresh from a rather more glorious failure, on the other side of the Atlantic the same

day, is Gary Stevens, caught close home aboard Silver Charm when reaching boldly for the first American Triple Crown since Affirmed in 1978.

Affirmed's jockey, Steve Cauthen, became a great champion in Britain, and yesterday Stevens had his role model in mind when flying in for a ten-day stay — laying the

foundations, not only for an annual visit to Ascot, but also for a more prolonged stay in the future.

Stevens, 34, tempted by an offer from André Fabre ten years ago, is clearly intent on a change from the repetitive American circuit before retirement. "I've always promised myself that, before the end of

my career, I will make a lengthy stay in Europe," he said. "Where I'd be based, and when it will happen, I don't know."

Among 4,000 career wins, Stevens can number the 1995 Kentucky Derby for Tabor (aboard Thunder Gulch), and last year's Canadian International for Stoute (Singspiel). With a question mark over the future of Walter Swinburn, whose struggle to control his weight has enforced an indefinite sabbatical — Stevens might find the perfect opportunity looming sooner rather than later.

The royal meeting has attracted an entry of 17 European classic winners, who are in turn expected to prompt the entry of 250,000 racegoers.

Those who stay at home will, as part of a new deal, be able to watch proceedings on BBC for another three years. But they may detect a significant change of tone.

Malcolm Kemp, the new executive producer of racing, revealed that Julian Wilson will share presentation with Clare Balding — "very much in a 50-50 role".

Balding has appealed as a natural in her limited television roles to date. Her promotion, intruding into Wilson's territory, is integral to Kemp's undertaking to seek a "lighter" tone.

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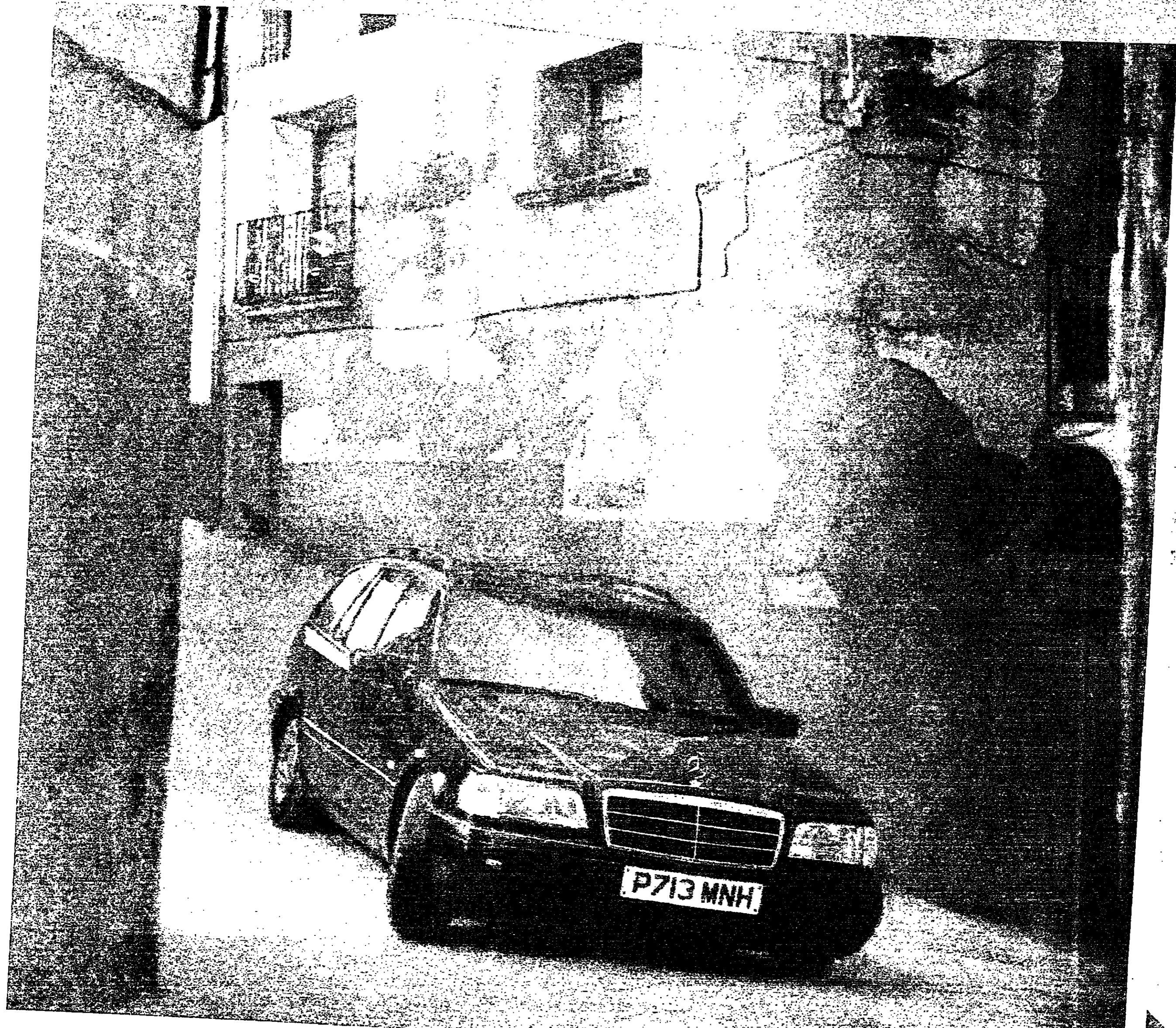
Kemp

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GOLF: WORLD No 1 IN FINE FETTLE FOR US OPEN CHALLENGE

Norman happy to start in shadow of Woods

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND

THE US Open starts at The Congressional Country Club here tomorrow, no more than a couple of long drives from Capitol Hill. Of the 156 who will tee off, few are further apart in terms of achievement or lifestyle than Greg Norman and Peter Teravainen. Indeed, the only similarities are that they both play golf rather well, were born in the mid-fifties and are fair-haired.

In contemporary golf, Norman's name is second only to the wunderkind, Tiger Woods. The world's No 1 seldom travels without a retinue. He pops in to the White House with his family for a visit to his friend and golfing partner, President Clinton.

After finishing among the top ten in the US Open four times in the past seven years and coming fifth, second and third in his three most recent tournaments, Norman is second favourite behind Woods to win the 97th US Open.

On Monday, Norman said that he had just bought a modified Boeing 737, believed to have cost \$32 million. It is the world's biggest private jet.

"Should help me get around," Norman said drily. Teravainen, not surprisingly, does not own a plane. He is one of the game's footsoldiers and is nicknamed "Whiplash", due to the ferocity of his hitting.

Norman, who has won 55 events around the world, is

here at Bethesda because he is ranked No 1 in the game; Teravainen, the 1995 Czech Open champion and 1996 Japan Open champion, is one of 87 players to advance from local and regional qualifying.

"I'm not a superstar like Greg Norman, who can make any course suit his game," Teravainen said. "Sometimes I'm dreadful."

Teravainen, an American of Scandinavian descent, is insufficiently well known to find himself caught up in a furor such as the one that Norman found himself in yesterday. The Australian was the object of an attack by a Washington newspaper columnist for being thin-skinned and rude.

Norman, who has won 55 events around the world, is

At the start of the third round of last week's US tour event, the Kemper Open, Norman lost his temper when the announcer made a joke referring back to the time, earlier this year, when President Clinton fell while staying at Norman's home. Later, Norman made what some considered to be an obscene gesture to a fan.

"I do regret doing what I did, but again it's all emotion," Norman said. "I am a role model. I know I have a responsibility and that wasn't a good image to portray. It leaves a sour taste in my mouth."

"I am not one bit jealous of Tiger Woods," Norman continued, speaking of the young man who has himself come in for some criticism lately for alleged discourtesy. "I welcome him out here. I think he is wonderful. I know my responsibilities to the game but it's always nice to have somebody else to take a little bit off your shoulders. I've been doing it for 20 years. I have enjoyed doing it. I don't want to stop doing it."

Teravainen, an economics graduate of Yale, will never encounter the problems that face Norman and Woods. He is not a role model, other than to those who admire the determination of a 41-year-old man who promised his mother that, if he had not made some money at golf by the time he was 25, he would give it up and get a proper job. He still has not won any money worth talking about and failed to earn a penny from ten of the 11 European events in which he competed last year.

Explaining why he could not reel off her list of course records, she said: "I am not a numbers person. I'm just out there to make as many puts and birdies as possible." If she gets those numbers right in years to come, she can leave the rest to her accountant.

Saner Marais, a petite South African, and Ana Belen Sanchez of Spain, were Moodie's nearest challengers, on 72. Natalie Evans, a 20-year-old from Lancashire who plays international golf for Wales, would have joined them if she had not missed a two-inch putt through carelessness.

Kim Rostron, the English champion, was smiling as usual despite two double-boogies in her 76, but Alison Rose, the Scottish champion, was a little more gloomy after a 79.

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

dropped a shot — and then taking two of the 11 puts she used on the back nine.

Moodie, who has shown great potential since her leading role in the Curtis Cup in 1994 (with everything depending on her match she won at the 18th), once said she would not turn professional unless she was sure she could make a lot of money. She will leave the amateur ranks in August, after the McDonald's WPGA Championship at Gleneagles.

"We'll soon see," she replied, dead-pant, to a question

SCORES

FIRST-ROUND LEADERS: 67: G. Moodie (Wingfield); 72: S. Marais (SA); A. Sanchez (Sp); 73: S. Amcau (Fr); M. Hedberg (Sw); N. Evans (Fleesington); 74: C. Raison (Ormeskirk); S. Cavalier (Fr); B. Marais (Wingfield); S. Amcau (Sp); B. Moore (Wingfield); 75: T. Farquharson-Black (Desuden); E. J. Power (Kilkenny); M. Prieto (Sp); A. J. Eastham (Can); K. Macintosh (Aus); L. Keutze (Fr); K. Burton (St George's Hill); D. J. Smith (Eng); S. Amcau (Fr); 76: M. Joul (Den); K. Burton (Ireland); S. Dredge; I. Rosberg (Sw); M. McKay (Tunbridge); M. Ziegmann (Holl); 76: C. Gladys (Bawburgh); W. Warming (SA); K. Rostron (Catherine); S. Wood (Aberdeen Ladies); A. Tournant (Fr); N. Nyenhuus (Holl)

TENNIS

Smith's win keeps the home fires burning

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SAMANTHA SMITH and Lucie Ahl gave the home crowd plenty to cheer with straight-set wins in their first-round matches at the DFS Classic women's tournament at Edgbaston, but Shirl-Anne Siddall, of Dorset, had less happy time, losing 6-3, 6-4 to Sandra Cacic, of the United States.

Smith, the British No 1 from Essex, beat Sung Hee Park, a qualifier from South Korea, 6-4, 6-4 while Ahl won an all-British encounter with Claire Taylor 6-1, 6-1. Smith's reward is a second-round meeting with Lisa Raymond, the No 3 seed from the United States. Ahl will play Dominique van Roost, who is seeded sixth, from Belgium.

Smith, 25, a wild-card entrant, had her service broken three times by Park but gained five breaks of her own on her way to a 67-minute victory. "I played pretty shrewd tennis out there and I was pleased with my performance," Smith said. "I think she was uncomfortable with the way I played. I just aimed to keep the ball low and attack

when I could." Looking ahead to her next match, she said: "Lisa Raymond will be a tough match. I'm really looking forward to playing some of that quality. It's her first match on grass so I may be a little bit sharper than she is."

The top two seeds in the tournament both had straight-set wins in their second-round matches. Irina Spirlea, of Romania, the No 1 seed, was given a stern test by Rachel McQuillan, of Australia, before winning 7-5, 7-6, while Nathalie Tauziat, of France, easily overcame Kristina Brandi, of the United States, 6-1, 6-4.

Yayuk Basuki, of Indonesia, the No 4 seed, was hardly troubled in a 6-1, 6-1 win over Naoko Kijimuta, of Japan, while Anne-Gaëlle Sidot, of France, who is seeded No 5, fought through 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 against Camille Cristea, of Romania. There was also a second-round victory for Magdalena Maleeva, the No 7 seed from Bulgaria. She beat Lenka Cenková, of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-1.

RUGBY LEAGUE: AUSTRALIANS EXPLOIT WEAKNESSES OF STRUGGLING RIVALS

British game gets wake-up call

Christopher Irvine

looks at the impact
of new world club
championship

Just as it is imagined that the Australians have been caught they have provided a reminder that they have bounded further ahead.

The world championship is a sustained wake-up call for the British game. It is not just at playing level, but in coaching, administration and general presentation of the sport that it lags behind.

The first truth is the obvious one that rugby league, for all the divisions in Australia, is still the No 1 sport and draws on a great wealth of talent. The development systems provide a conveyor belt of high-class players. Compared with the meritocracy in Australia, mediocrity grips the far smaller British game, with a few honourable exceptions.

Although they narrowly lost at home to Penrith on Monday, Bradford Bulls showed that they, too, can compete. Not that gutsy defeats provide much solace.

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP '97



League deal is lining too many pockets.

Those clubs that fail to reach even their average Super League attendances for their opening world championship matches might question their decision to increase admission prices. No supporter likes to stump up extra to see their team humbled. The fear is that they might stay away in greater numbers for the second round, which starts on Friday. In Australia, too, the event has still to capture public imagination.

Just as the great adventure was becoming a nightmare, Wigan, the one British side that would not be out of place in the Australasian competition on present form, chalked up a triumph against Sydney-based Canterbury. Like Bradford, they faded towards the end, but had sufficient points in the bank — unlike the Bulls — to withstand a strong comeback.

As well as pace and power, the fitness of the southern-hemisphere sides sets them apart. Compared with a dozen games by Penrith, Monday was Bradford's nineteenth of the season.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said: "Fitness is the big difference. I went to see Penrith do a physical session on a Thursday. I can't do that here, because we're either coming out of three games in eight days or going into three in eight.

"Either we keep the current fixture list and decide to be second best, or we do something about it."

The lessons and the embarrassment are likely to continue. In introducing all 12 Super League clubs to trans-hemisphere competition, there is no hiding place. Merrily, plans are already in train for an elite tournament next year to try to remove the stale predictability.

Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain and scrum half, will enter hospital this week for a hernia operation. He will miss the remaining home world club championship matches, against Cronulla, next Monday, and Penrith.

Holmes proves fitness with fine victory

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

KELLY HOLMES, a double medal-winner for Britain at the 1995 world championships, stamped her authority on her first race of the season in Europe last night when she won the 800 metres at the International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix II meeting in Bratislava. It was an impressive return to grand prix competition for Holmes, who filled the role of an also-ran at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year, when she ran with a stress fracture of her left leg.

While reports circulated that Holmes was injured again, these were discounted by Malcolm Arnold, the Great Britain head of coaching, when she was named in the European Cup team on Monday. She proved her fitness last night when she moved boldly to the front with 300 metres to go and won in a time which puts her into fifth place in the year's world rankings.

Following on the shoulders of the leader at the bell, reached in 58.25sec, Holmes resisted any temptation to rely on the sprint and, when she

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Conner takes the wheel during Adela's victory in the commemorative race round the Isle of Wight yesterday

Conner steers triumphant course

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

DENNIS CONNER was out on the Solent yesterday steering the magnificent superyacht, *Adela*, to first place in a race round the Isle of Wight held to commemorate the original 100 Guinea Cup of 1851.

It was perhaps fitting that the man who famously won and lost the America's Cup should be taking part in a race celebrating the genesis of that event.

For Conner and the owner of *Adela*, George Lindemann, an American businessman, the main business of the day was to beat *Adix*, the three-masted gaff schooner, skippered by Paul Goss.

During the recent Atlantic

Challenge Cup, when the two yachts were among 16 racing from New York to the Lizard, *Adix* trailed *Adela* for most of the way and arrived well-beaten, a day and a half after her shorter rival.

Yesterday, Conner, who described himself as *Adela*'s "driver for the day", made a textbook start, bringing the huge schooner up to the Squadron line only 25 seconds after the gun. *Adix* was already a boat-length down and did not get a look in from then on.

Although at 19ft *Adix* is 23ft longer than *Adela*, her gaff rig is not as efficient upwind as *Adela*'s and Conner pulled away effortlessly in a fresh easterly wind.

By No Man's Land Fort,

where *Adela* bore away and

another one and I wouldn't have missed it."

The skipper of *Adela*, Steve Carson, who navigated for the day, was sympathetic as *Adix* made her way up to the finish watched by the 50-strong crew on *Adela*.

"It's a shame for *Adix*," he said. "It's been the same as the transatlantic — too much weather work. But it's been a good race. If it had been more of a reach at the start, she would have been ahead," he added.

Among the other yachts in the race were *Mariette*, the 13ft Herreshoff schooner, *Saryah*, a Sparkman and Stephens 13ft ketch, the 1914 *Fife*, *Sumurin*, and *America*, the 1907 replica of the yacht that won the original 100 Guinea Cup.

ATHLETICS

made her move. She did not immediately break the field. However, applying the pressure steadily rather than in bursts, she pulled away around the top bend to win in 1min 58.65sec.

Encouraging, too, for the British women's team going into the European Cup in Munich next week is the form of Ashia Hansen. For the second time in three days, Hansen defeated Sarka Kasparkova, the Olympic bronze medal-winner, from the Czech Republic, to win the triple jump with 14.70 metres.

However, Tony Jarrett was out of sorts, finishing third in the 110 metres hurdles after breaking the ninth hurdle and clattering several others.

The sixteenth anniversary of Sebastian Coe's 800 metres world record passed with a two-lap race as uneventful as any this season. In the absence of Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan-born Dane who is expected to break Coe's record this season, nobody was prepared to commit to a fast run. David Kiptoo, from Kenya, won in 1min 45.25sec.

CRICKET: LEICESTERSHIRE OUT OF THEIR DEPTH AS STEWART AND THORPE SET UP CRUSHING VICTORY

Bicknell books Surrey's ticket to final

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (Leicestershire won toss): Surrey beat Leicestershire by 150 runs

THIS was a mismatch. Surrey outplayed Leicestershire so thoroughly yesterday that they resembled teams from different spheres. They now go to Lord's on July 12 to try to win the Benson and Hedges Cup for the first time since 1974. This result means that they go there with a favourable wind at their backs.

It took ninth-wicket stand of 75 between Paul Nixon and Tim Mason to prevent a heavy defeat reaching embarrassing proportions. Nixon, dropped on 11, completed a half-century that emphasised his fighting spirit and kept the game going after Leicestershire lost their eighth wicket in the 25th over. The game lost its zing in the opening overs of the innings as the gold award winner, Martin Bicknell, took four for 41.

It was a limp display of banality by Leicestershire. Maddy went in the third over, caught behind as he stretched to drive Bicknell, who then took a wicket in each of his first two overs.

Thorpe was swiftly into his stride, driving beautifully and

bowled Whitaker off an inside edge. Johnson nicked a drive to give Lewis a wicket, and by the time Bicknell took his sweater he had persuaded Habib to dab a slip catch to Thorpe and castled Wells through a mighty gate.

The second part of the innings belonged to Thorpe. Having made 79 rather good runs earlier in the day, to allay fears that he might be exhausted by his endeavours on England's behalf, he had two hands in the last three wickets subsisted. Nixon was the last man out for 53 when he drove a low catch to extra cover.

Surrey owed their morning recovery to a fine stand of 164, a county record for the third wicket in this competition, by Thorpe and Stewart, another man to have survived the rigours of Edgbaston that so concerned Dave Gilbert, Surrey's Australian coach. They pulled things round from 15 for two after Maddy had taken a wicket in each of his first two overs.

Thorpe was swiftly into his stride, driving beautifully and

pulling in that familiar way with his right leg kicking like a Tiller Girl's.

Stewart, intent on playing a long innings, caught him up later and they went to fifty harmoniously. When they were out, and Lewis failed to beat Habib's throw from the long-on boundary, the stage was prepared for Adam Holloake.

The Surrey captain has enjoyed a spectacular start to the season with England, and he was no slouch yesterday. Almost at once he drove Wells for a high six over long-on, and his eye well and truly in, he moved inside the line of a respectable ball from Dakin to clear the ropes at deep extra cover. It was a proper stroke, too, not a typical "one-day" slog.

In no time at all, 40 balls in

fact, he had made 63 and, though he fell with two overs left, he had enabled Surrey to push on past 300 and set a formidable target for Leicestershire, who might have settled for 275.

The Surrey total should

really have ended up 307 for

nine wickets but John Holder

ruled Bicknell "in" from the

last ball of the innings when his bat was six inches short of the crease. In terms of the

match, it did not matter.

Their score was safe by the time Bicknell had finished his ten overs. Then Holloake re-emerged to take the last two wickets. He can do little wrong right now. This is his first season as captain and already he has played with distinction for England and led Surrey to Lord's, where they have not won a knockout final since 1982. They call it the Midas touch.



Bicknell celebrates after bowling Whitaker, the Leicestershire captain

OVAL SCOREBOARD

LEICESTERSHIRE	
V. J. Wells c Nixon b Maddy	4
H. J. Stewart c Nixon b Mason	87
B. C. Holloake c Whitaker & Maddy	9
G. P. Thorpe b Wells	75
A. M. Bicknell c Johnson b Lewis	0
C. G. Johnson not out	12
M. A. Butcher run out	23
J. D. Ratcliffe not out	13
I. D. Salisbury c Nixon b Johnson	2
M. A. Nixon not out	1
Extras (b, 6, w, 11)	18
Total (9 wkt, 50 overs)	308
Seasons Match not bat	
FAL. OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-18, 3-173, 4-210, 5-223, 6-230, 7-291, 8-397	
BOWLING: Nixon 10-0-32-2; Maddy 5-0-31-1; Salisbury 10-0-32-2; C. G. Holloake 5-0-24-1; Sadan, Mistry 8-1-21-0; A. J. Holloake 2-3-0-0; Dakin 0-0-0-0	
Umpires: J. W. Holder and R. Julian	
Gold Award: M. P. Bicknell	

Harrogate pitch helps Roseberry to recuperate

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

HARROGATE (Scotland won toss): Durham beat Scotland by eight wickets

THIS delightful spa town is well known for its restorative spring water. For Michael Roseberry, Durham's struggling former captain, the recuperative delights stemmed from the superb pitch in the Costcutter Cup.

Roseberry has endured arid times recently and made nought and one on his championship recall against Sussex last week. Rehabilitation was nigh yesterday against the friendly Scotland attack and

his unbeaten 102 came from 155 balls, with ten fours and three sixes. He shared an opening partnership of 95 in 23 overs with Jonathan Lewis and then figured in a century stand with Paul Collingwood.

James Boiling, however, won the man-of-the-match award for his 11-over spell of two for 18 that sorely restricted Scotland in mid-innings.

Scotland, qualifiers for the 1999 World Cup, are still learning to play with the big boys – indeed, juveniles, as Durham still are in the broader context. Instead of a four-over run, Scotland restricted them to the six zone. Bruce Patterson, omitted from their ICC Trophy games in Malay-

sia, made 97, with eight fours from 160 balls, but it was all too ponderous.

Patterson was faced with the last-over dilemma of working the ball around for his maiden one-day hundred or perishing on the charge. He took the latter option and was caught at long-on.

Scotland's realistic bottom line was that if they have to lose to learn, it will be worth it. Their innings contained 21 fours but nothing lavish that these perfect batting conditions demanded. On the same pitch, Yorkshire and Gloucestershire had amassed 613 runs between them in the first semi-final. Durham meet Gloucestershire in the final today.

Scotland, qualifiers for the 1999 World Cup, are still learning to play with the big boys – indeed, juveniles, as Durham still are in the broader context. Instead of a four-over run, Scotland restricted them to the six zone. Bruce Patterson, omitted from their ICC Trophy games in Malay-

HARROGATE SCOREBOARD

SCOTLAND		DURHAM	
R. A. Patterson c Bowler b Sets	2	J. J. Lewis c and b Beaven	34
B. C. Holloake c Bowler b Sets	28	M. A. Mistry c Bowler b Sets	10
H. J. Philpott c Kildon b Bowler	41	P. D. Collingwood c Samond	100
M. J. Smith c Roseberry b Bowler	10	J. P. Harries not out	54
J. D. Roseberry c Lewis b Maddy	26	N. J. Scott c Bowler b Bowler	7
J. Lewis c Bowler b Maddy	10	J. D. Roseberry c Bowler b Bowler	7
G. P. Hunter c Bowler b Collingwood	2	Total (2 wkt, 50 overs)	220
P. D. Stand not out	2	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-95, 2-208	
K. L. P. Shandian not out	4	BOWLING: Thorson 6-49-0; Hunter 8-194, 5-214, 6-214, 7-217	
Extras (b, 6, w, 11)	17	8-194, 5-214, 6-214, 7-217	
Total (2 wkt, 50 overs)	220	BOWLING: Wood 3-1-39-2; Cox 3-38-0; Collingwood 3-1-39-1; Bowring 11-176, 8-194, 2-214	
I. R. Beaven and K. Thompson did not bat		Umpires: D. J. Constant and J. H. Harris	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-105, 3-123		Man of the match: J. Boiling.	
BOWLING: Wood 3-1-39-2; Cox 3-38-0; Collingwood 3-1-39-1; Bowring 11-176, 8-194, 2-214			

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Novgorod tournament
Garry Kasparov will be anxious to restore his authority after his loss to Deep Blue in the top tournament which is now underway in Novgorod. The line-up is: Garry Kasparov, Vladimir Kravtsik, Vassily Topalov, Boris Gelfand, Nigel Short and Evgeny Bareev. Regular reports will appear in this column.

Strategic play

Continuing my coverage of Howard Staunton, in advance of the unveiling of his headstone on July 28 by the Staunton Society, today's game shows his superb strategic vision. The strategy of holding back White's centre pawns was not widely accepted until the 1920s. Here Staunton anticipates this strategy by around seven decades.

White: Staunton

Black: Horwitz

London 1851

Dutch Defence

1 e4 e5
2 Nc3 Nf6
3 g3 Nc6
4 Bg2 Bc5
5 d3 Bb6
6 e5 Nc5
7 d4 Nf6
8 Nf3 Nc6
9 d5 Nf6
10 Bf4 Nc6
11 Bg5 Nf6
12 Rf1 Nc6
13 e6 Nf6
14 Nf3 Nc6
15 Nf6 Nf6
16 e5 Nc6
17 Nf3 Nf6
18 Nf6 Nf6
19 Nf6 Nf6
20 Qb3 Nf6
21 Ne4 Nf6
22 Rfd1 Nf6
23 Qc3 Nf6
24 Rfd1 Nf6
25 Nf6 Nf6
26 Qd2 Nf6
27 Qd2 Nf6
28 Qd2 Nf6
29 Qd2 Nf6
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CRICKET: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BRUSHED ASIDE IN SEMI-FINAL

Headley ushers Kent to their place at Lord's

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CANTERBURY (Northamptonshire won toss); Kent beat Northamptonshire by 66 runs

FOR a club that has won neither of the knockout cups in 19 seasons, Kent's one-day cricket at present is irresistible. They gave themselves only a modest total to defend in this Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final yesterday but there was never much danger that 8,000 volatile supporters, the first of whom had begun queuing at 5am, would go home disappointed.

Dean Headley effectively decided the contest when he took Northamptonshire's first three wickets during a waspish spell with the new ball. Even in pursuit of a mere 207, there was no easy way back from 34 for three, especially in conditions that encouraged the bowlers throughout.

Kent had successfully chased more than 300 here in the quarter-final but this was a different game entirely. The ball swung and seamed for the quicker men, who also found occasional extra bounce, and when Paul Strang piled his wrist spin he was somewhere close to Utopia.

For all that, this was a wretched effort by Northamptonshire. Bottom of the county championship, their cricket continues to dismay. True,

they were without David Capel, who was sorely missed, and Mohammad Akram, but their seam bowling was wayward, their out-cricket flawed and their batting flimsy.

Since they last won this competition in 1978, Kent have been beaten in three finals, the most recent of them two summers ago. This was their 13th win in the 26 years of the Benson and Hedges Cup, making them numerically the most successful county, but their passionate members will now want something more tangible to celebrate at Lord's and Paul Headley.

They will go there with every chance, even against Surrey, but will require a better start than they made yesterday. Rob Bailey removed Fulton, the game was taken away from the visiting side by a century stand for the fourth wicket between Trevor Ward and Paul Headley.

It is a paradox here. Ward is one of the best batsmen in England without a Test cap, and showed it once more with his clean, uncomplicated striking. Ealham never quite looks a Test cricketer but has already played ser-

vically on three occasions. Ealham was cheered to the wicket, a returning hero, and it is a compliment to him that he did not suffer by comparison with Ward. This, however, was the only substantial partnership of the day and when Kent then lost four wickets for seven runs, two of them to foolish run-outs, even 200 looked beyond them. Yet Steve Marsh shepherded his men to something competitive before unleashing Headley.

If his fitness could be trusted for a five-day game, and at present there remains some doubt, Headley would join Mike Smith as a viable alternative to Devon Malcolm for the Lord's Test. He worked up a lively pace, gained sufficient movement to command respect and bowled a length to disconcert. Russell Warren's footwork was duly confused as he lost his middle stump to Headley's fourth ball.

Mal Loye and Curran followed quickly, both playing treacherous strokes, and when Tony Penberthy was well caught at slip, heavy burden rested upon Bailey. He struck some powerful drives in that angular way of his but Martin McCague returned to have him caught behind and leave Northamptonshire forlorn at 79 for five. Strang, finding bounce and lavish turn, took the next four wickets and only John Emburey's ritual definition extended the affair.



Headley celebrates after removing Warren's middle stump at Canterbury yesterday

CANTERBURY SCOREBOARD

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE									
M V Fleming c b w b	6								
M J Walker c Warren b Follett	4								
D P Fulton c Emburey b Taylor	17								
T R Ward run out	76								
M Curran c Walker b McCague	33								
I M Curran c Walker b Headley	79								
I M Penberthy c Wells b Fleming	13								
I C Wilson c Fulton b Strang	19								
D S Strang c Strang b Strang	19								
P A Strang c sub b Taylor	5								
I N Marsh not out	27								
M J McCague not out	12								
Extras (b 8, w 7, nc 2)	12								
Total (8 wkt, 50 overs)	204								
D W Headley did not bat									
FALL OF WICKETS 1-11, 2-13, 3-56, 4-67, 5-78, 6-89, 7-107, 8-121, 9-142, 10-153, 11-173, 12-193, 13-213, 14-233, 15-253, 16-273, 17-293, 18-313, 19-333, 20-353, 21-373, 22-393, 23-413, 24-433, 25-453, 26-473, 27-493, 28-513, 29-533, 30-553, 31-573, 32-593, 33-613, 34-633, 35-653, 36-673, 37-693, 38-713, 39-733, 40-753, 41-773, 42-793, 43-813, 44-833, 45-853, 46-873, 47-893, 48-913, 49-933, 50-953, 51-973, 52-993, 53-1013, 54-1033, 55-1053, 56-1073, 57-1093, 58-1113, 59-1133, 60-1153, 61-1173, 62-1193, 63-1213, 64-1233, 65-1253, 66-1273, 67-1293, 68-1313, 69-1333, 70-1353, 71-1373, 72-1393, 73-1413, 74-1433, 75-1453, 76-1473, 77-1493, 78-1513, 79-1533, 80-1553, 81-1573, 82-1593, 83-1613, 84-1633, 85-1653, 86-1673, 87-1693, 88-1713, 89-1733, 90-1753, 91-1773, 92-1793, 93-1813, 94-1833, 95-1853, 96-1873, 97-1893, 98-1913, 99-1933, 100-1953, 101-1973, 102-1993, 103-2013, 104-2033, 105-2053, 106-2073, 107-2093, 108-2113, 109-2133, 110-2153, 111-2173, 112-2193, 113-2213, 114-2233, 115-2253, 116-2273, 117-2293, 118-2313, 119-2333, 120-2353, 121-2373, 122-2393, 123-2413, 124-2433, 125-2453, 126-2473, 127-2493, 128-2513, 129-2533, 130-2553, 131-2573, 132-2593, 133-2613, 134-2633, 135-2653, 136-2673, 137-2693, 138-2713, 139-2733, 140-2753, 141-2773, 142-2793, 143-2813, 144-2833, 145-2853, 146-2873, 147-2893, 148-2913, 149-2933, 150-2953, 151-2973, 152-2993, 153-3013, 154-3033, 155-3053, 156-3073, 157-3093, 158-3113, 159-3133, 160-3153, 161-3173, 162-3193, 163-3213, 164-3233, 165-3253, 166-3273, 167-3293, 168-3313, 169-3333, 170-3353, 171-3373, 172-3393, 173-3413, 174-3433, 175-3453, 176-3473, 177-3493, 178-3513, 179-3533, 180-3553, 181-3573, 182-3593, 183-3613, 184-3633, 185-3653, 186-3673, 187-3693, 188-3713, 189-3733, 190-3753, 191-3773, 192-3793, 193-3813, 194-3833, 195-3853, 196-3873, 197-3893, 198-3913, 199-3933, 200-3953, 201-3973, 202-3993, 203-4013, 204-4033, 205-4053, 206-4073, 207-4093, 208-4113, 209-4133, 210-4153, 211-4173, 212-4193, 213-4213, 214-4233, 215-4253, 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514-10233, 515-10253, 516-									

Hit the dimmer switch and turn up the lite

Concentrate, as Jennifer Aniston might say, here comes the pseudo-scientific bit. The intellectual caloric value of television is being deliberately reduced by programme-makers who believe that by the time we get home in the evening and put the children to bed, we are either too tired or in the wrong mood to take in anything remotely high-brow. Instead, they serve up an ever more tempting array of fact-free, idea-controlled dishes, designed to send us, soothed, to bed. Welcome to lite-tv.

The king of lite-tv is David Green of September Films, who has so far brought us Hollywood this, that and the other. You name it and he's turned it into a 6 x 52-minute series: *Hollywood Lovers*, *Hollywood Pets*... I could go on and he has. Last night, however, he came home, bringing the same high-energy, blink-and-you-miss-it approach to bear on the British class system. Never being a man for obscure titles (rule one of lite-tv: give 'em exactly what it says on the tin) he called it *Class* (ITV).

We began with a comedian (at least that's what the caption said) offering a complex analogy that seemed to involve ants, slugs and snails with stately homes on their backs. While we were still gawping over that, along came the Duke of Buccleuch, who playfully argued that the only reason for preserving dukes was duchesses. "Life without a duchess would be no fun." Momentarily, I wondered what the duke thought life without half of Scotland might be like, but suddenly the screen was filled with the fragrant presence of Peregrine Worsthorne and the tone of the next half an hour was set.

One professional controversialist followed another, each competing to provide the most outrageous 12-second sound-bite that their

Mary-Mary-quite-brains could come up with. "The Queen is the most middle-class person I know," pronounced one, with a smug look that said "trump that". Michael Winner, Will Self and Brian Sewell: an unlikely trinity if ever there was one – tried hard.

Aware that such polished outrage can become a tad tiring after a while, director Jilly Hafnerichner interspersed their offerings with smatterings of sex: posh girls in short skirts, glossy-looking Taras and Tamaras and public-school girls queuing for a teenage ball. "How many boys are you going to snog tonight?" asked the off-camera interviewer, reclaiming the intellectual high-ground. The girls giggled, while a sensible mother worried about glandular fever.

Although this opening programme concentrated on the upper classes, representatives from

lower social echelons got a look in, including former gangster "Mad" Frankie Fraser (call me a coward, but I thought he had some particularly pertinent things to say) and Eric Bristow, the darts player. He was against fox-hunting ("not really my sort of weekend") and no daughter of his would be becoming a deb. A Debbie perhaps, but definitely not a deb.

Another example of lite-tv that

gor under way last night was *Driving School* (BBC1) and very odd it was, too. It was watchable (as lite-tv is designed to be) but so contrived you wondered just how spontaneous some events actually were. Had Maureen (six test failures, 40 lessons) really steered her husband's elderly Lada into the path of an overtaking car? Had she really woken him up at 2 o'clock in the morning with the words: "It's no good, love, we've got to do it"? Revise for her theory test, that is.

In her efforts not to miss a single moment that could be made humorous, the director, Francesca Joseph, had deployed cameras everywhere. In the cars, in the bedroom, in the underwear department of a well-known chain store; she even had one pointing straight up an instructor's skirt. If they ever decide to make *Crash II*, Joseph has all the right instincts. So far the star is probably Pam,

the straight-talking and successful instructor who marks her lessons with little apologetic waves and the occasional blown kiss to a passing examiner. But by the end my sympathy was swinging behind Paul, partly because he had been gently ridiculed, first as a model car collector and then as a committed Christian, and partly because he had just got Joan (three failures, 110 lessons) successfully through her fourth test. Given the amount of time she had spent stuck in neutral in the car park, it was little short of a miracle.

In America, I gather, the final episode of *Murder One* (BBC2) has yet to be shown and having seen it, I can understand why. Having failed to be recommissioned by the networks, Steve Bochco's creation finished a pale imitation of itself, lapsing first into melodrama and eventually into parody. "Now we've got a

story that crackles," said film producer Gary Blondo as we finally discovered that mass-murderer Clifford Banks (despite everything, a supremely scary performance from Pruitt Taylor Vince) had also murdered his own brother: "It's *The English Patient* without the date palms."

The question was according to Blondo, should the part of James Wyler, our star attorney, be played by Al Pacino or Robert De Niro? Given that Anthony LaPaglia's terrific performance as Wyler has had strong echoes of both, it was a nice, if rather incestuous, touch. LaPaglia is one of three things that the series should be remembered for, along with the boldness of its ethnic casting (culminating with the Ricky Lairell case) and Mary McCormack, who, as Justine Appleton, spent the series inappropriately dressed for the office. What became of her romance with Wyler we shall never know.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond



BBC1
6.00am *Business Breakfast* (26695)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (73782)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5765188)
9.20 *Chiggers' Challenge* (3678072)
9.45 *Kilroy* (913459)
10.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (73345)
11.00 News (T) and weather (2883121)
11.05 *Reset Rooms*: The makeover team transform an old-fashioned kitchen into something for the 1990s (7190121)
11.30 *The Great Escape* (1492)
12.00 News (T) Regional News and weather (1750546)
12.05pm *Call My Bluff* (5952650)
12.35 *Neighbours* (T) (472966)
1.00 News (T) and weather (316199)
1.30 *Regional News* (15887237)
1.40 *The Weather Show* (36082256)
1.45 *Quincy* (2110940)
2.35 *Time off with Gloria*: Veteran crooner Val Doonican talks to Gloria Hunniford about how he spends his spare time (4891140)
2.50 *International Tennis*: Further action as some of the game's leading lights compete in the Stella Artois Championships at Queen's (793104)
4.00 *Popeye* (9486093) 4.10 *Gadget Boy* (9307521) 4.35 *Out of Tune* (5018546)
5.00 *Newround* (T) (8320459) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (T) (7480362)
5.35 *Neighbours* (T) (520679)
6.00 News (T) and weather (188)
6.30 *Regional News* (140)
7.00 *Antiques Roadshow*: Hugh Scully joins former Home Secretary Kenneth Baker at his London home to examine his collection of political cartoons (T) (9430)
7.30 *Tomorrow's World*: Reports on a scientist's efforts to breed a super-hygienic strain of honey bee, resistant to mites; a specially designed catamaran to attack the sailing speed record (T) (324)
8.00 *The National Lottery*: Live Glasgow band Del Amitri perform their latest single and Carol Vorderman offers more baffling statistics. Presented by Carol Smillie (T) (614607)
8.15 *Firefighters*: The Merseyside Red Watch brigade are called out to what appears to be a typical house fire, but get a surprise on searching the building (T) (836188)
8.50 *Points of View* (T) (20094)
9.00 News (T) and weather (4017)
9.30 *Backup*: Touched The team attend the scene of a rail crash (T) (486121)
10.25 *The X Files: Ascension*: Derailed FBI agent Diana Barry escapes and takes Scully prisoner, convinced he has an appointment to keep with aliens and hoping they will take her instead of him (22) (T) (815508)
11.10 *Stephen King's It*: Concluding the two-part adaptation of the bestselling novel (T) (T) (143072)
12.45am *Dillinger* (1945): The life and death of the infamous gangster John Dillinger, with Lawrence Tierney. Directed by Max Nosseck (5732454)
1.50 Weather (6807625)

BBC2
6.00am *Open University: Energy from Waste* (3351898) 6.25 *Fluid Flows* (5366913)
6.50 *Dynamic Analysis* (T) (7367382)
7.15 *See Hear Breakfast News* (T) (1076343)
7.30 *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* (T) (6991273) 7.55 *Act 8* (T) (2183999)
8.20 *Philbert the Frog* (8126985) 8.25 *Paddington Peas* (1550169) 8.35 *The Record* (2733641) 8.40 *Job Bank* (3656850) 9.25 *The Geography Programme* (5743237) 9.45 *Words and Pictures* (4249962) 10.00 *Telethons* (37492) 10.30 *Numberline* (4115986) 10.45 *Cats' Eyes* (4013140) 11.00 *Marsalis on Music* (70795) 12.00 *The Shape of the World* (T) (62273) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (96827) 1.00 *Careers* (2283492) 1.25 *Zig Zag* (59042275) 1.45 *Come Outside* (5917674) 2.00 *Philbert the Frog* (6702658) 2.05 *Paddington Peas* (T) (8898099)

2.10 *International Tennis*: Coverage of the Stella Artois Championships at Queen's Club (5054112) 2.50 *News* (T) Regional News and weather (2572975) 2.55 *Westminster* with Nick Ross (9272091) 3.55 *News* (T) Regional News and weather (3169237)
4.00 *International Tennis*: More from this week's Stella Artois Championships (3879)
6.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (T) (351614)
6.45 *The Ren and Stimpy Show* (double-bill) (T) (622256)
7.05 *CHOICE*: The Chair with actress Patsy Palmer alias Blanca from *EastEnders* (665382)
7.30 *Coronation Street*: *Amberley Attack* (203) The 1996 scare over the contraceptive pill (T) (966)
8.00 *Call My Bluff* (T) (3492)
8.30 *Yes, Prime Minister*: Acclaimed political comedy (T) (2527)



Dr Benjamin Spock (9.00pm)

9.00 *CHOICE*: *Reputations: Dr Benjamin Spock: Growing Up the Hard Way* Profile of Dr Benjamin Spock (T) (6411)
10.00 *Pleasure Palace*: Glasgow's Arlington Bath Club (63966)
10.28 *Newsnight* (T) (678237)
11.15 *The Trouble with Boys* (2/3) Joyce and David reach the end of their tether trying to control their 12-year-old son – and agree to take part in a pioneering new parenting therapy from America (299668)
11.45 *Picture House* (613121) 12.00 *The Midnight Hour* (74096)
12.30am *Learning Zone: Relative Risk* (53251) 1.30 *The Physics of Ball Games* (68838) 2.00 *Newspaper, Geography and Politics* (34299) 4.00 *English Heritage* (30247) 4.40 *Dream Girls* (35612) 5.00 *Basic Skills* (31102) 5.30 *Voluntary Matters* (75752)

9.00pm *The Adventures of Bon Jovi* (T) (6782341) 1.00 *Get Carter* (2264701) 1.00pm *White Heat* (1949) 2.25 *Drag Racer* (502129) 3.00 *Football* (5021294) 4.00 *Grand Prix* (5021295) 5.00 *Football* (5021296)

5.30pm *SKY MOVIES GOLD*

7.00pm *Recent Releases* (6942701) 7.25 *Motorcycling* (56256) 12.00 *Football* (18617) 2.00 *Live Tennis* (533402) 7.00 *Bodybuilding* (533403) 9.00 *Tennis* (76421) 10.00 *Swimming* (533404) 12.00 *Football* (533405)

7.00pm *UK GOLD*

7.00pm *The Matless Falcon* (1941) 7.30 *The Bill* (5074101) 9.00 *You're Only Young Once* (5511401) 10.00 *Day Free* (5075091) 11.00 *Crime* (5075092) 12.00 *Eastenders* (552226) 1.00 *Eastenders* (552226) 1.35 *On the Up* (227909) 2.15 *Somt* (528156) 2.50 *Any Day Now* (515721) 3.00 *Eastenders* (552226) 3.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 4.00 *Eastenders* (5617502) 4.40 *Styles* (5620999) 5.20 *23rd Di Who*: The Ark in Space (562156) 5.50 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 6.00 *Eastenders* (5617502) 6.40 *Styles* (5620999) 7.00 *Any When I Laugh* (562156) 7.30 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 8.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 8.40 *Eastenders* (5617502) 9.00 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 9.45 *Any Day Now* (515721) 10.00 *Eastenders* (5617502) 10.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 11.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 11.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 12.00 *Eastenders* (5617503) 1.00 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 1.45 *Any Day Now* (515721) 2.00 *Eastenders* (5617502) 2.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 3.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 3.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 4.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 4.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 5.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 5.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 6.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 6.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 7.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 7.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 8.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 8.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 9.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 9.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 10.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 10.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 11.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 11.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 12.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 1.00 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 1.45 *Any Day Now* (515721) 2.00 *Eastenders* (5617502) 2.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 3.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 3.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 4.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 4.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 5.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 5.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 6.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 6.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 7.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 7.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 8.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 8.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 9.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 9.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 10.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 10.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 11.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 11.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 12.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 1.00 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 1.45 *Any Day Now* (515721) 2.00 *Eastenders* (5617502) 2.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 3.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 3.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 4.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 4.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 5.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 5.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 6.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 6.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 7.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 7.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 8.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 8.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 9.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 9.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 10.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 10.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 11.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 11.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 12.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 1.00 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 1.45 *Any Day Now* (515721) 2.00 *Eastenders* (5617502) 2.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 3.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 3.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 4.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 4.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 5.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 5.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 6.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 6.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 7.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 7.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 8.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 8.45 *Younger Generation* (5617501) 9.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 9.45 *Younger Generation* (5617502) 10.00 *Any Day Now* (515721) 10.45 *Young*



SAILING 43

Conner steers a winning line in classic encounter

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

RUGBY UNION 46

Lions call up Diprose for injured Quinnell



British No 1 rediscovers winning touch against Richardson at Queen's

Henman ends the waiting game

By JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

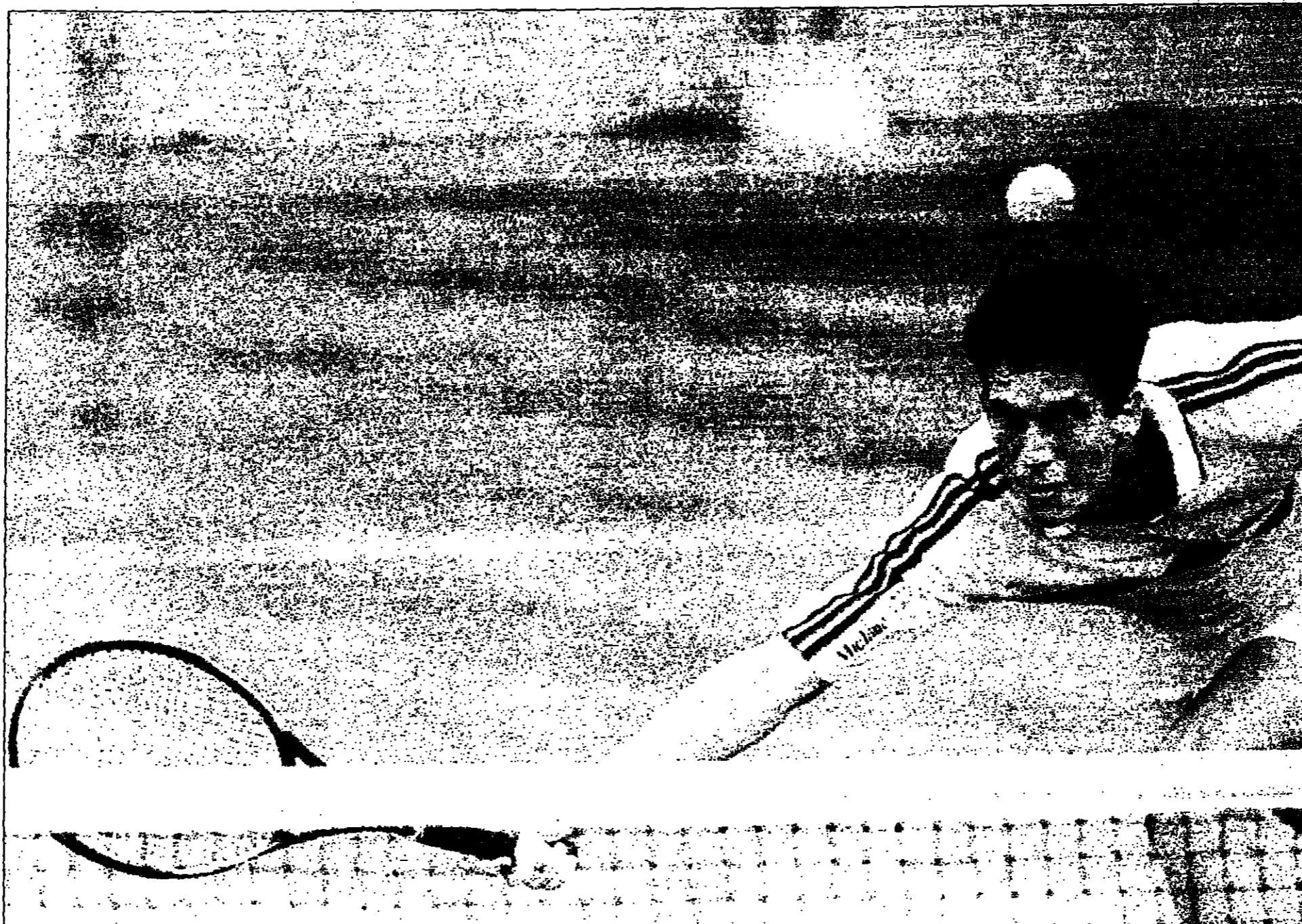
BIBLICAL references to the wilderness tell of 40 days and 40 nights, but Tim Henman has been there longer. The man who has been hailed as the saviour of British tennis yesterday completed his first victory for more than 100 days when he brushed aside his compatriot, Andrew Richardson, after a hesitant start in the Stella Artois championships at Queen's Club.

Henman prevailed in the first round of the Italian Open last month, but only after the stricken Spaniard, Roberto Carretero, withdrew through injury. So when Richardson dragged a backhand wide to succumb 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, Henman, the British No 1, was entitled to heave a sigh of relief. Such is the expectancy surrounding his Wimbledon prospects that he simply wanted to savour the winning feeling.

Nevertheless, this was hardly vintage Henman. In a

match of two distinct halves, the world No 22 alternated winners with unforced errors, aces with double faults, as Richardson capitalised on his opponent's wayward form. Indeed, in blustery conditions, a double fault cost Henman the very first game of the match. He negated the damage when a neat drop volley brought him level at 2-2, yet Richardson immediately conjured the break that was to claim him the opening set — in which opportunities against the serve punctuated seven of the first eight games.

It was loose, knockabout stuff. "At the beginning of the second set I knew I had to pull my finger out and raise my standard," Henman reflected. This he did in the fourth game, greatly aided by Richardson, who double-faulted at 30-30 before an overhand approach handed Henman the initiative. The tide had turned: Henman promptly levelled the match, closing out the set with two successive aces.



Henman stretches for a forehand volley during his second-round victory over Richardson, his fellow Briton, at Queen's Club yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Henman, previously inhibited by nerves, was now showing glimpses of his best. Richardson had increasingly relied on his penetrative serve to keep him afloat, but his effort collapsed when a disputed line call at 30-30 derailed him at the start of the third set. He was to forfeit 12 of the next 13 points, and with them the

match. It was a measure of Henman's progress that he lost but one point in his four service games in the deciding set. Never before has he progressed beyond the second round at Queen's. He now meets Jens Knippelschmidt, of Germany, for a quarter-final berth.

Henman acknowledged he was some way from his peak since deprived of much-needed match-play by an elbow injury. "I felt I imposed myself in the second and third sets," he said. "I loosened up and started to serve a lot better.

But I've got more improving to do — another 40 to 50 per cent maybe; it's difficult to quantify. I think I can serve better and I can definitely return better. Hopefully I will get there by Wimbledon. I need a few wins — everyone could see that."

On another fine day for home-grown talent, Martin Lee, the youngster from Essex, boldly hit himself into the third round — and a possible confrontation with Goran Ivanisevic, the No 3 seed — with a stirring defeat of Alex O'Brien, the No 13 seed, in

three keenly contested sets. Having disposed of Andrei Olhovskiy, who is ranked No 146 in the world, on Monday, Lee faced a more daunting opponent in O'Brien, who trades as the world No 34. It did not faze him in the slightest. The Briton, ranked 500th, appeared overawed in the first set, which he conceded on a service break in the sixth game. However, as he had against Olhovskiy, Lee rallied with rare gusto to level the contest after an immaculately played tie-break.

The match revolved entirely

around the ninth game of the deciding set. Lee, 19, required three break points before, at full stretch, he seized the truism with a rasping cross-court pass to reach 5-4. His confidence was now such that, with O'Brien deflated, a decisive service game seemed a formality. Lee duly obliged, serving out to love.

He can do better still. A ratio of first serves below 50 per cent hints at the scope he holds. Should he develop a stronger second serve, Lee will be well armed to progress quickly up the ranks. Whatever

his progress in this tournament, Lee, who headed the world junior rankings for four months last year, is almost certain to be accorded a wildcard entry to Wimbledon later this month. Yesterday, Richardson was among 11 Britons named in the first batch.

In the match involving Greg Rusedski, Britain's other representative in the singles, rain interrupted play last night with Rusedski inseparable from Mark Woodforde, of Australia, the scores locked at one set all, one game all and deuce.

Transfer on hold as Babbel goes for double the money

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MANCHESTER United will have to break their pay structure if they are to sign the Bayern Munich defender, Markus Babbel. The 24-year-old Germany international said yesterday that he will remain with Bayern unless United make an offer that would have earned around £2 million over a three-year contract. Babbel wanted a deal worth £1.5 million a season before agreeing to a £5 million switch.

It is likely that United will now concentrate on prising Rangers' Danish striker, Brian Laudrup, away from Ibrox. Laudrup spent yesterday in a meeting at the Jersey home of the Rangers chairman, David Murray, but it is understood that he is set on leaving.

The Italian defender, Sergio Ponzi, signed a four-year contract with Rangers after completing a £3 million move from Juventus. The arrival of the 28-year-old central defender strengthens the club's Italian links after former Fiorentina player, Lorenzo Amoruso, signed last week.

Terry Venables's future as the Australia coach could be thrown into doubt after his alleged involvement in transfers of international players to his club, Portsmouth. Several Australian clubs are to complain to the Soccer Australia board.

Venables denied he has acted in an underhand manner and said: "There's no conflict in me being chairman of Pompey and coach of the Australian national side."

Terry Fenwick (the manager) has made the decisions on these players. I just sent him some tapes of the players."

The Leicester City winger, Jamie Lawrence, joined Bradford City yesterday in a £50,000 deal. Lawrence, 27, signed a two-year contract at Valley Parade after passing a medical. As part of the deal, Leicester, who paid £75,000 for the winger in January 1995, will receive 25 per cent of any fee received should Lawrence be sold on.

Bradford also signed the striker, Robert Steiner, for £50,000 from IFK Norrkoping, the Swedish club, on a three-year contract. Steiner spent three months on loan at Valley Parade last season.

World Cup drug cheats warned

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

PLAYERS competing in the World Cup football finals in France next year will face the most stringent drug-testing procedures in the history of the sport. If a player tests positive, he will take no further part in the competition; if two from the same team produce positive samples, their country is likely to be thrown out of the tournament.

Even non-playing substitutes and players "behaving strangely" could be subjected to the rigorous testing process, which will adhere to the medical code of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Dr Laurent Rivier, the scientific director at the laboratory for analytical toxicology at the University of Lausanne's institute of legal medicine, will head the tournament's anti-doping unit. He gave warning that if players fail a test, excuses of ignorance or poor advice are unlikely to receive much sympathy. "It is up to each individual to know what he is taking," Rivier said. "It is no use saying: 'My doctor said it was OK, I did not realise it was wrong.'"

Rivier, 54, was speaking in Lyons during the Tournoi de France, which concludes this evening when France play Italy in Paris. Fifa, the sport's world governing body, and the French organising officials have used the tournament as a trial run for the World Cup finals.

Samples taken during the finals will be sent to a laboratory in Paris for analysis. It will take 24 hours to produce a negative result, 48 hours for a positive. "Ninety-nine per cent are negative," Rivier said.

Diego Maradona, the controversial Argentina forward, tested positive in the finals three years ago and was expelled from the remainder of the competition. The Argentina team escaped punishment and progressed to the second round, in which they lost to Romania.

Rivier is confident that the samples taken in France will not be lost, mixed up or allowed to deteriorate. "If we find traces of a drug in a player's urine, then we will be 100 per cent certain that he has taken something," he said.

"Any problems regarding identification have been resolved and we now have new ways of ensuring that the sample belongs to the individual concerned. We will have very strict security and I can guarantee that no crossover of samples will happen."

Hewlett-Packard, the leading American computer company, which is the main sponsor of Tottenham Hotspur and has its United Kingdom headquarters in Bracknell, Berkshire, will provide the chemical analysis and medical products. It is part of its multimillion-dollar support, including information technology services, for the tournament.

However, blood sampling, which can detect the use of growth hormones, will not be available. "We still don't have any reliable tools to carry out this efficiently," Rivier said.

"The systems are not yet ready and there are also legal and religious considerations to overcome. I don't see this being introduced until perhaps the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000."

France aiming to go out in style

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FRANCE face the challenge of proving to their supporters that they are on the right track for the World Cup football finals, on home soil next summer, when they meet Italy in the final match of the Tournoi de France at Parc des Princes tonight.

Aimé Jacquet's side has so far disappointed, losing 1-0 to England after a creditable second-half display against Brazil in Lyons, where they secured a 1-1 draw in the opening match. Both sides will be looking to avoid finishing last place, the Italians after a 2-0 defeat by England and a 3-3 draw with Brazil, the world champions.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
England	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
France	2	2	0	0	3	4	6
Italy	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

□ Not including last night's match

Jacquet, whose attack is suffering from a severe shortage of goals, said that what counts at this experimental stage is that the French team should be ready in a year".

He added: "Those two teams [Brazil and Italy] are superior to us in the domain of finishing." France, although conceding only two goals, have scored just one in the tournament.

Fabien Barthez, the France goalkeeper, will miss the match after injuring a finger when Alan Shearer scored a late winning goal for England. Lionel Charbonneau, of Auxerre, steps up to earn his first cap.

In midfield, Christian

Karembeu should be back after twisting an ankle early in the game against Brazil in a side close to Jacquet's first-choice team.

France are expected to bring back Ibrahim Ba, an attacking midfield player, on the right in front of their most experienced back four, with Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff as the playmakers. This would leave room for only one striker, Christophe Dugarry, of AC Milan.

Italy, who have not beaten France since the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina, are forced to make several changes because of injury.

Neither Dino Baggio nor Demetrio Albertini, who played in the match against Brazil, are fit, the Milan player having left France early to undergo surgery on a groin injury.

This is likely to mean that Gianfranco Zola, who prefers a forward role, will link up with Attilio Lombardo and Roberto Di Matteo, his Chelsea team-mate, in a midfield behind the unchanged front line of Christian Vieri and Alessandro Del Piero.

At the back, with Paolo Maldini, the captain, doubtful, Cesare Maldini will probably include both Stefano Torrisi and Alessandro Nesta. He is expected to bring back Antonio Benarivo to replace the younger Maldini.

The greatest concern for Italy is that they have conceded five goals in two matches. "A great fatigue provoked the spaces which Brazil needed to express themselves," Dino Baggio said. "In good health, Brazil would not have caught up with us."



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SHAKERS
&
MOVERS

Redford
bows out

ROBERT REDFORD is moving out of New York. His penthouse on Fifth Avenue is on the market and is expected to sell for more than \$4 million. The agent is thought to be Brown Harris Stevens. Those who have visited say the views over Central Park South are wonderful.



On the move: Redford

House of
parties

A GRADE II house in Fulham bought by the first Lord Beaverbrook in 1918 and still used as the family home ever since is for sale for £6 million with Aylesford. The Vineyard in Hurlingham Road was the venue for glittering parties and political meetings, with guests including Lloyd George and Sir Winston Churchill, between the two world wars. The house has six bedrooms and there is a one-bedroom staff cottage.

The perfect
location

BEN KINGSLEY is selling his home, Pebworth House, near Stratford-upon-Avon. It is on the market with Strutt & Parker for £495,000. The house has five bedrooms and a two-bedroom flat on the second floor. There is also a three-bedroom cottage with its own garden.

Stoker's story
room for sale



Ben Kingsley: new stage

IN JUNE 1896, Bram Stoker was sitting in his bedroom in the Fearnley Hotel, high on Whitby's promenade. A bat flew through the window, and the story of Dracula was born. Now the same room is up for sale, as part of a block of flats. "A lot of the people we've shown the flat to are very interested in Dracula, but there haven't been any cranks," says Mark Pennick, of the estate agent Bairstow Eves, who has valued the flat at £46,500. The most recent occupant reported noises from the empty flat above and the smell of burnt candle wax. It is the only one of the six flats in the block still unsold.

His loss,
your gain

CHESTERTONS Residential has a flat for rent at £650 per week, owned by the former Conservative MP for Leeds, Spencer Batiste, who lost his seat in the general election.

The flat, in Riverside Court, Nine Elms Lane, southwest London, is conveniently situated for Westminster. It has river views, three bedrooms and two reception rooms. Originally two flats, it is described as having excellent space for entertaining.

THE TIMES
People & property

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

GREAT RESTORATIONS 2 ■ THE JUBILEE EFFECT 6 ■ WHAT CAN YOU GET FOR £100,000? 11

A home too good for a bishop

The official residence of the Bishop of Portsmouth goes on sale today, 18 months after the bishop was asked to leave the exquisite house set in seven idyllic acres of Hampshire greenery. It is with a Winchester estate agent for £800,000.

The nine-bedroom, five-bathroom house is the first bishop's residence in an English diocese to be sold since the 1980s, when the Church of England lost £800 million on the property market. Last year, the Church Commissioners declared it was "no longer appropriate for bishops to live in such grandeur".

The house cost a reported £37,530 to maintain in 1992 and the Bishop, Dr Kenneth Stevenson, was asked to move because the Church Commissioners felt a 200-year-old residence set in seven acres was not appropriate for a family man. Guidelines on where bishops live are laid down by the commissioners and the House of Bishops.

Dr Stevenson, a father of four, was initially reluctant to leave the magnificent house, called Bishopswood, in Fareham, between Portsmouth and Southampton, but now says he understands the reasons for his move to a £300,000 six-bedroomed Victorian villa called Carlton House nearby.

Although another bishop's residence is believed to have been sold about 15 years ago, the Church Commissioners say that the sale of such houses is "extremely rare". The commissioners are currently three-quarters of the way through a seven-year review of all 44 see houses.

Bishopswood was originally called Blackbrook Cottage, and its first owner was George Purvis, who married Jane Austen's niece.

Tenants in a three-bedroom lodge and a gardener's cottage included in the sale have been given until the end of September to find new homes.

In a statement to *The Times*, the Church Commissioners said: "The tenants have been given as much notice as possible — 12 months — to make alternative arrangements. We hope that they will be settled in the near future."

"The Bishop and the diocese were unhappy at first, but have grown used to the idea of moving. This is now well in the past, and the Bishop looks forward to moving into Carlton House, which will be renamed, probably Bishopswood."

The original Bishopswood, a Grade II listed enlarged

The Church is taking a humbler approach to property, putting some tempting residences up for sale, writes Eve-Ann Prentice

Eve-Ann Prentice



Dr Stevenson and Bishopswood, whose first owner married Jane Austen's niece

Cottage Orme, has one of the biggest thatched roofs in Britain. The cost of retatching is believed to have been an important factor in the commissioners' decision to ask Dr Stevenson, who was enthroned and moved to Bishopswood in 1995, to leave.

Prospective buyers are likely to be enchanted by the sweep of the drive, the gothic windows, and a great hall, added this century with a neo-Tudor brick fireplace. A magnificent dining room and a panelled drawing room both have French doors to the garden and there are ladies' and gentlemen's cloakrooms leading from the hall. A small study is described by estate agents Lane Fox as "currently used for private worship". There are also outbuildings with garaging.

Woods that form part of the grounds of the house, which

has been the official residence of the bishops of Portsmouth since 1927, are the only surviving part of the ancient Forest of Bere and contain many examples of wild plants which have been surveyed and recorded.

A weeping willow by a sunken ornamental pond is said to have been grown from a cutting taken from the grave of Napoleon Bonaparte at St Helena.

The Church of England's 44 dioceses contain nine palaces and 35 other historic and imposing residences for bishops, costing £1.6 million to maintain in 1994. The commissioners believe the ideal bishop's residence should have six bedrooms, a dining room capable of seating up to 12 people, a room for up to 30 people to meet, a study, a

drawing room, a sitting room purely for family use and "limited" grounds. The seven acres at Bishopswood are believed to have been regarded as too large and expensive to maintain.

The commissioners think that a large house is justified only if it is a vital part of Church heritage, would be difficult to sell, the profit to be gained by selling would be marginal, or much of the building is used as offices or other purposes.

The annual cost of maintaining a bishop was last year reported to be around £159,000, including domestic and secretarial help, chauffeuring and a salary of £24,590.

For information on the sale of Bishopswood, telephone Lane Fox in Winchester 01962 869999.



The Bishopswood dining room: "no longer appropriate" say the Church Commissioners

Endless appeal of old vicarages

Rising costs are forcing the clergy into new homes

stands the church clock at ten to three. And is there honey still for tea? Rupert Brooke's musings on the old vicarage at Grantham evoke a gentle afternoon in a quintessential English parish before the First World War, Eve-Ann Prentice writes.

But times have changed since Brooke penned his lines. For a start, Lord Archer has moved in to Grantham's old vicarage near Cambridge and closed the orchard tea gardens.

Across the county border in Bedfordshire, Peter Whittaker is one of a dwindling band of Church of England clergy still living in English vicarages and rectories. Unlike the others, he is safe in the knowledge that he can stay there.

As the costs of maintaining huge and rambling country homes have soared, many of the venerable buildings have been sold — 102 of them last year.

Clergy in parishes where vicarages have been put on the market have usually moved to modern, purpose-built homes. But Canon Whittaker, vicar of Barton-le-Clay, north of Luton, knows that that his rectory — dating from 1550 and perhaps the oldest in England — will never be sold, thanks to a local benefactor who left £500,000 to the parish when he died.

Some of the money has been used to save the magnificent building from being sold. The Parochial Church Council also built a new church next door, and paid the costs of maintaining the rectory. "We could not have afforded to keep it going without the legacy," says Canon Whittaker. His biggest headache now is the disappearance this year of a moat bordering the garden, from which Queen Elizabeth I is reputed to have eaten apples.

Less fortunate clergy whose traditional vicarages were sold in the 1960s and 1970s often ended up in poorly designed replacements. Now, though, new parsonages are being built accord-



Canon Whittaker's rectory, above, and Canon Clarke's new home



ing to guidelines laid down in *Parsonages: A Design Guide*, published by the Church Commissioners, and credited with greatly improving new homes for clergy.

Canon Chris Clarke has recently moved to what may be the newest vicarage in England, at Sonning in Berkshire. The four-bedroom house was finished last Christmas according to the tenets laid down in the parsonages' design guide. Canon Clarke loves it. "The old vicarage has been sold," he says, "and we kept a third of an acre on which to build the new house. The old vicarage needed a vast amount spending on it and it is much better here."

There is not as much room of course, but we don't need as much. I have a big study and it is lovely to have a shower room as well as a bathroom. From the parishioners' point of view, there were some concerns because this is in an ancient and sensitive area, but now they like the house."

What happens when a large, often

Victorian vicarage becomes too expensive to maintain, and how are new vicarages designed? Proposals to replace a building are initiated locally, not by the church commissioners as some people imagine, and the consent of the incumbent clergyman or woman is needed. The local proposal to sell does, however, then need the consent of the commissioners. "The number of houses disposed of annually is relatively small," the commissioners say: 102 in 1996 out of a housing stock of 8,000.

Listed, old or large buildings require proper maintenance and this is often better carried out by private people with sufficient resources for the task rather than by the clergy, whose primary task is to provide a pastoral ministry to their parishes," the commissioners add.

The commissioners' Green Guide to designing clergy homes was last revised in 1990 and a new guide is to be issued this year. "Design and environmental standards have altered and security issues have become more prominent," the commissioners say in their annual report for 1996.

Among the criteria for architects planning a new parsonage are: parking for three to five cars, access for prams and wheelchairs, sheltered spots for the clergyman or woman's children to play "screened for privacy", and a garden with trees and shrubs which "should not provide a would-be intruder with cover or a means of access to and from upstairs windows".

The accent on security is evident in the guide's exhortation for "sensible precautions to protect the property and its occupants... good exterior lighting and a mortice lock for the front door".

Inside, the modern parsonage should have a lobby with waiting space, a large study, two reception rooms, one of which should be large enough to accommodate meetings of 20-25 people, and four bedrooms.

Back in Barton-le-Clay, Canon Whittaker strides across the sloping floors in the oldest part of his Tudor rectory, where a Jacobean code-breaker is reputed to have once lived. He points out that half of the house is given over to community use, for meetings, retreats and even a social services training day.

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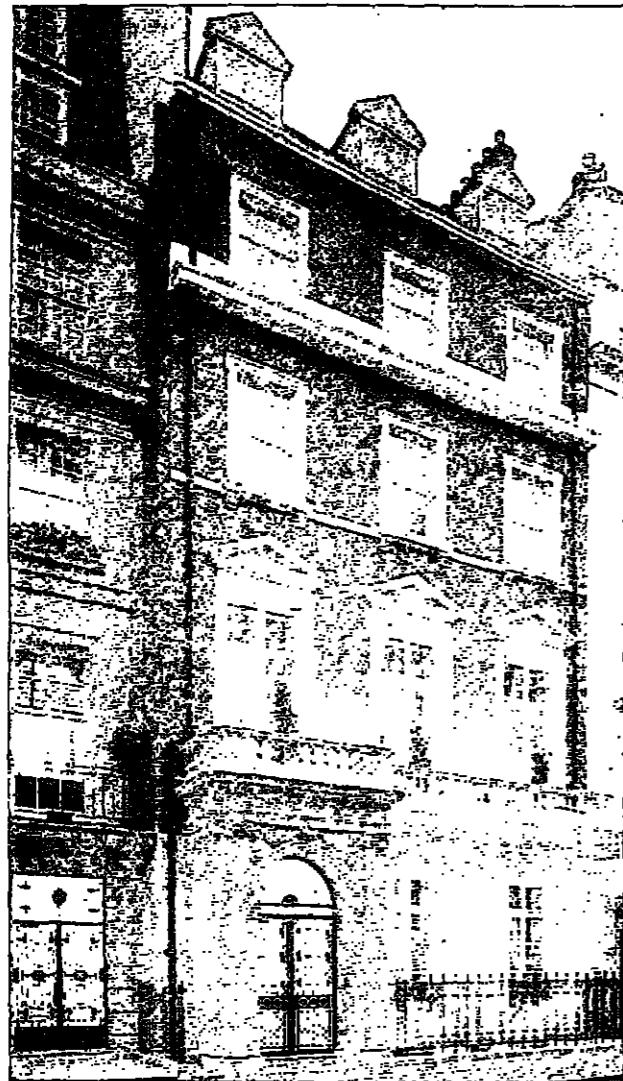
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Those enjoying the season will always find short-term lets in central London

Katherine Bergen on a pleasing trend in British cities as handsome buildings are converted to their original use as homes



The stylish Georgian facade of 19 Upper Brook Street

Popping home to the office

For the past five years, Mayfair has been London's most prestigious building site as office buildings revert to their original use in this once-prized residential location.

Many houses were granted permission after the Second World War for conversion to offices to alleviate the shortage of commercial sites. The City of London, which had been badly bombed during the blitz, could not accommodate all the businesses needing space and Mayfair was chosen as an alternative.

In 1990 when temporary office planning consents expired, it was decided that 57 of the properties owned by the Grosvenor Estate, whose ownership of 100 acres made it the biggest landlord in the area, would return to residential use. It was generally thought that there was no demand for big houses in Mayfair and many buildings were converted back into flats.

That view has changed and since 1992, Peter Wetherell, who has been specialising in Mayfair property for 25 years,

PROPERTY CONVERSIONS

has sold more than 50 buildings on behalf of the Grosvenor Estate and other clients, which have been, or will be, converted back to substantial single residences.

Mr Wetherell estimates that the gentrification of Mayfair offices reverting to residential is considered to account for more than a million square feet of space. This includes 15 single residences providing more than 7,000 sq ft. The company is marketing Mayfair property worth more than £60 million, nearly 50 per cent of which has reverted to residential from commercial usage.

Last month Mr Wetherell, with the joint agents De Groot Collis and DTZ Debenham Thorpe, sold 20 Upper Brook Street as a single residence for more than £4 million. The six-storey house, built in 1737 by John Simmons, has had many alterations over the years but retained its basic layout and some original features.

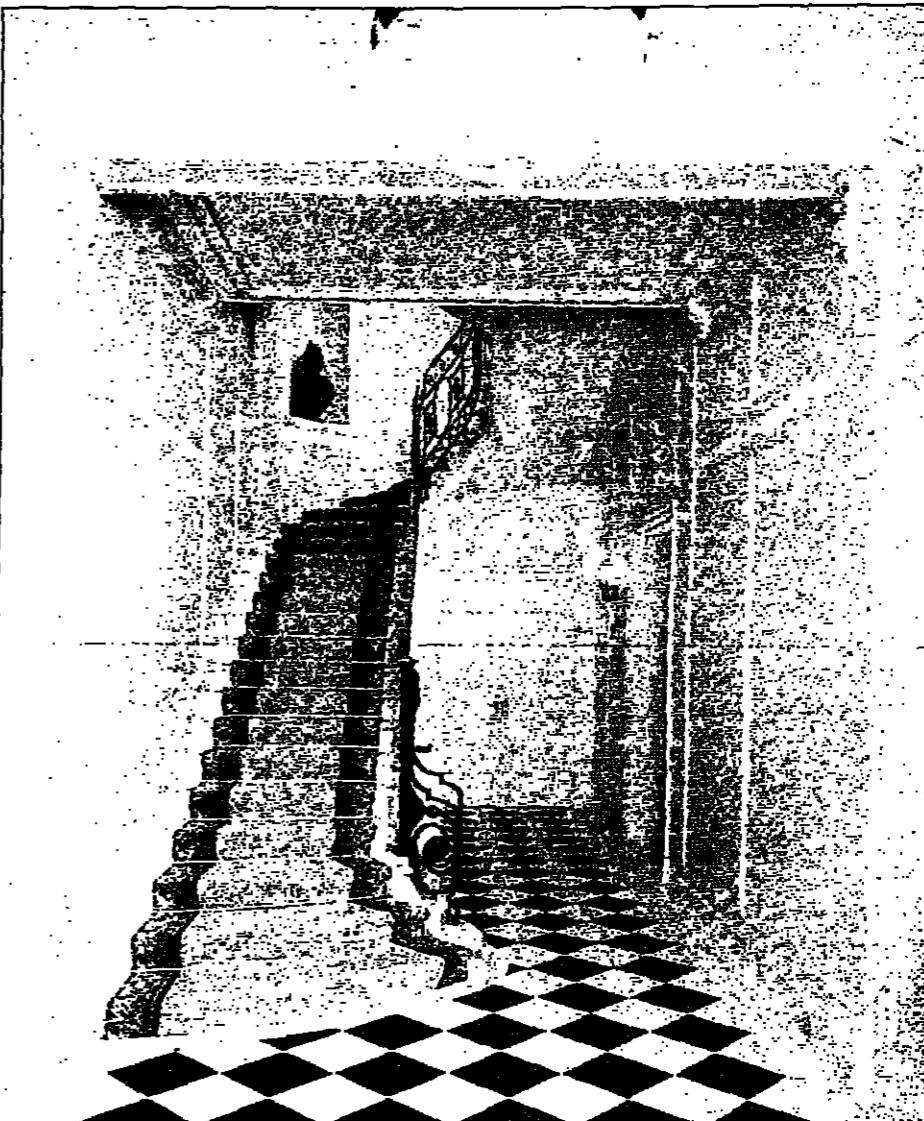
The same agencies have two other houses in the street to sell. No 23, built in 1742 and once lived in by Sir Thomas Foxwell Buxton, High Sheriff of Norfolk and 4th Earl Howe, Lord Chamberlain to Queen Alexandra, is on the market for £4.25 million. The house also retains its original plan and both the circular skylight drum and the staircase which it illuminates are from the 18th century.

Modern touches include an indoor swimming pool, air-cooling system, lift, and double glazing at the front of the house. When No 19 was being restored, builders found a vaulted ceiling, under which a pool has been built, and the original wine cellar. The new owner, who will have to pay £8.75 million for a 101-year lease, will receive four bottles of 1929 Nuits St Georges which were found stonewalled in cobwebs in the cellar.

These properties are beautifully restored, but unfurnished. One property in South Street, which is on the market with Knight Frank and De Groot Collis, has been given the personal touch by its property developer owner who has actually lived in it. The house, birthplace of Conservative Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home, has a bright yellow atrium with 15ft palm tree and a whirlpool bath. So rigorous were the developer's standards in the main kitchen — there are two, he is a keen cook — that he insisted the reclaimed oak be given 11 coats of yacht varnish. He is selling the property with a guide price of £5.9 million.

The phenomenon of reconversion to residential use is not limited to London. John Brown from DTZ Debenham Thorpe, which handles most of the conversion schemes in west Edinburgh, cites numerous examples in the city, although reconversion there is to flats as well as single houses. One example is No 6 Glenfinlas Street, Charlotte Square where a period building has been converted to five flats.

Mr Brown says: "Former residential A-listed buildings, which in the course of the past half-century were turned into offices, are now coming back to residential use. For a period of about 50 years from the end of the war to the mid-1990s, the



The entrance hall and sweeping staircase at 19 Upper Brook Street



South Street, Mayfair: atrium with whirlpool bath

original residential use in the New Town and the West End changed to commercial because of the demand of new business. From the mid-1990s office requirements started moving away from the conventional New Town style of building to open-plan."

Initially, demand was not very strong, but companies such as AMA (New Town) acquired seven houses in Palmerston Place, which Scottish Homes had been using as offices, to turn into flats. Likewise, the Walker Group has bought ten houses from Hydro Electric in Rothesay Terrace.

A building in Darien Street that has just been sold for £400,000 will be refurbished as a single house. Mr Brown says: "This property is a good example of a town house used as an office for some years and reverting to its original format for residential use." As with the Mayfair properties, he explains, most of the significant features have remained intact. In many cases they had been covered up for office use by temporary partitions.

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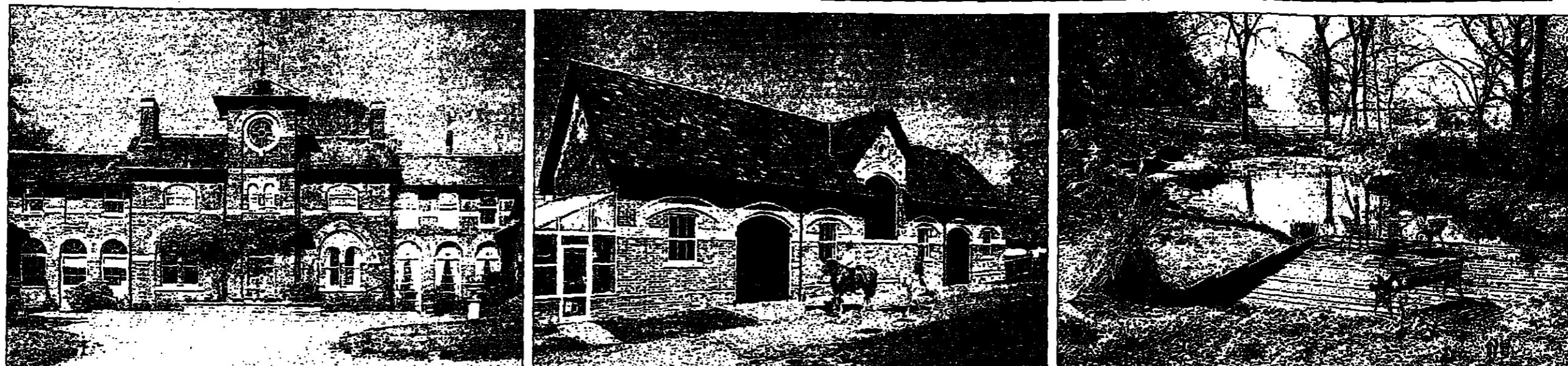
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The co-owner of a Formula 1 racing team is selling the home he has made into a homage to horse-power, writes Eve-Ann Prentice



Classic formula: for about £1 million Battlesden offers a seven-bedroom converted coach house, garden, heated swimming pool, hard tennis courts, stable block and manège, with commanding views over the Bedfordshire countryside

FRANK KEMPER

Perfect place for a family with drive to park and ride

Doves, the ultimate symbol of peace, endow Battlesden House with an air of supreme tranquillity. A narrow, Sunday-driver sort of lane meanders lazily through the Bedfordshire countryside and leads to the gravel driveway fronting the seven-bedroom house which is being sold so the vendor can nearer his new workplace.

The luxurious converted coach house looks like the country retreat of minor royalty. Yet a peek through the keyhole instantly reveals that the man who is selling is used to living life in the fast lane.

Walls in the study are festooned with Grand Prix photographs, shelves adorned with helmets worn by Formula One legends such as Gerhard Berger and Ricardo Patrese.

But the real giveaway is a fleet of Formula One racing cars in the garage block.

The man who is selling Battlesden House is Jackie Oliver, co-owner of the TWR Arrows racing team. Last year, engineering

ace Tom Walkinshaw took a 51 per cent stake in the team and the TWR Arrows' main factory is moving from Milton Keynes to Leaford, near Oxford. The racing team's wind tunnel is staying at Milton Keynes. So Oliver has put his mansion on the market and is looking for a home nearer Oxford.

With a price tag of around £1 million, Battlesden House comes with stables and adjoining floodlit all-weather menage, heated swimming pool, hard tennis court, and the Woburn estate and the Duke of Bedford for neighbours.

"I will never find another place like this," says Oliver. "It's right in the middle of old-money farming country; they resist the temptation to change so it will never be spoilt round here."

Oliver was hoping to open a racing car museum at the house, but planning permission for the garage block where eight Formula One cars are now housed took two-and-a-half years to get and now, of course, he is moving.

The cars, including models driven by Derek Warwick, Michele

Alboreto and Gerhard Berger, are to be moved to the factory near Oxford along with the other 26 or so which Oliver also owns. "I have a full-time chap looking after the cars, doing polishing, rust prevention and keeping the tyres pumped up," says Oliver.

The house was not fully renovated when we came here," Oliver adds. "The east wing was in ruins and we turned it into a snooker room with a collection of classic cars.

The site of Battlesden House has a curious history: an Elizabethan manor belonging to Sir John Duncombe first stood on the spot, but this was demolished and replaced with a huge Gothic chateau-style house in 1864.

The ninth Duke of Bedford bought the house in 1885 and demolished all except the ground floor — used as a nursing home during the Second World War — and coach house.

The remains of the principal house were demolished after the



Making tracks: Jackie Oliver and his dog, Lockey, with his fleet of Formula 1 racing cars which will find a new home near Oxford

war, leaving the coach house that has been home to Jackie Oliver, his wife and two young daughters for the past ten years.

"I suppose one of my favourite rooms in the house is the bedroom, where I can get some rare sleep," Oliver says. "I don't drive racing

cars much now because they are so problematical at low speeds that it is not so much fun.

"The fastest I have ever driven was 254mph at night at Le Mans in 1971, but speed all seems the same over 150mph.

And what does he drive on public

roads? "My favourite car is anything which goes. I use a Range Rover during the hunting season."

Fat Koi carp swim lazy loops beneath a stone fountain in the driveway to Battlesden House and Oliver says there is unlikely to be a water shortage for the new owner.

"There are 50,000 gallons of rainwater under the front courtyard. It is drained from the roof and was originally intended to water the originally."

• Details of Battlesden House

can be found at Strutt & Parker, 0171-629 7282

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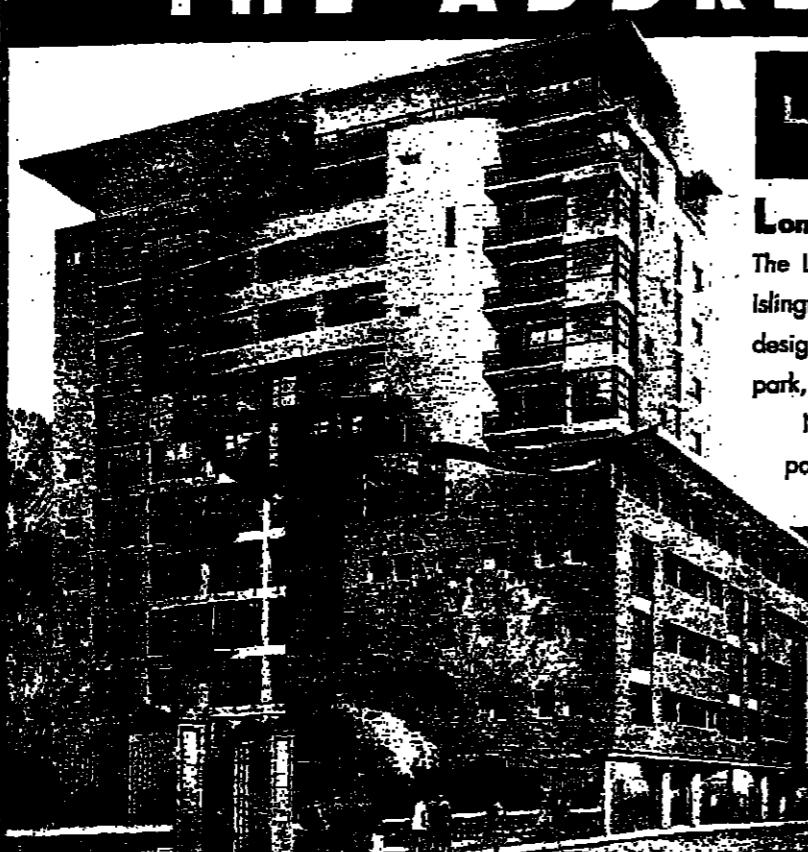
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As confidence returns, the cranes – and the rentals – are going up again in London. Christopher Warman reports

Boom brings on a building season

The crane count over London, particularly in the City, is an easy, if rough, measure of development activity – and the omens are good. The cranes are in their busy season as growing confidence after the recession is translated into action.

The NatWest Tower is a prime example, vacated in 1993 after a bomb devastated the building, it is emerging as The International Financial Centre to reflect its role in attracting tenants. The 318,000 sq ft building will be ready for occupation in October, and Paul Storey, the property director, emphasises the flexibility of its space.

No longer does he expect a few large occupiers, but instead is offering four leasing packages: fully furnished service suites; two variations of short-term leases; and long-term leases for single and multiple floors.

Mr Storey says that the building can provide exactly what the tenant wants in this fast-changing high-tech society. He expects to fill the Centre with 40 to 50 occupiers, two thirds of whom could come from overseas. The size of offices will

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

range from a few desks in a serviced suite, to 3,000 sq ft which occupies one of the three "leaves" of each floor, and up to 30,000 sq ft for the larger tenants. The quoting rent will be about £45 a sq ft, showing that City rentals are clambering back towards the high of £55 a sq ft before the recession.

The building was taken back to its basic structure, the latest services were installed and it was reclad to represent almost a replica of the original. The completion represents, according to Mr Storey, the first bounce-back of development into the City core since the shift eastwards to Broadgate a decade ago. Many of the buildings in Old Broad Street, which will be the Centre's main entrance, are following the road of redevelopment as the City core renews itself.

One building under construction is owned by Grosvenor Estate Holdings, which has also embarked on a "new generation of Mayfair office schemes", with two

variations of short-term leases; and long-term leases for single and multiple floors.

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before the recession.

The development at 75 Grosvenor Street, which like Bourdon Street will be completed this summer, has 16,500 sq ft of offices behind a retained classical facade. The scheme has been created by joining No 24, a Grade II listed building, to No 75 by a central glazed atrium. The agents are Hillier Parker and Baker Lorenz.

The 10,675 sq ft office scheme at 8

Bourdon Street will use a fresh air

displacement system which shows

considerable cost and energy sav-

ings over a conventional air-condi-

tioning system. It also gives tenants

the opportunity to occupy a new

office building with open plan

floorspace in the heart of Mayfair,

a rarity within the conservation

area. The agents are Hillier Parker

and Crossland Otter Hunt.

Strong demand and a shortage of

supply could lead to increases in

rents, says Stephen Newbold, a

partner with Knight Frank. "Rising

levels of take-up have raised inves-

tor and developer expectations of

the scale of rental growth. With a

selected number of prominent

schemes now being brought to the

market, the next few months

should see new benchmarks for

prime rental levels."

Jones Lang Wootton's figures for

the first quarter of this year show

that there is a severe shortage of top

quality, sizeable office space. The

advisers have identified 100 occupiers

seeking more than 54,000 sq ft

— 52 in the West End and 48 in the

City. Eleven are actively looking for

more than 216,000 sq ft.



The old NatWest Tower, now the International Financial Centre, dominates the London skyline



The Grand Hotel Corvinus, a new development in Budapest

Central Europe ripe for buyers

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

but many were poorly designed. The total supply of space available for letting by the end of 1996 was only about 500,000 sq m in Budapest, 235,000 sq m in Prague and about 300,000 sq m in Warsaw, almost none of it adequate. "Only Warsaw will see really substantial new supply in the years to the end of the century."

Chris Bennett of the firm's Budapest office, says there is a perception that the office letting markets in the three cities are over-supplied, or soon will be. "This is not the case, and the reverse, fundamental under-supply, will persist for some time to come."

Office buildings constructed between the Second World War and 1990 are unsuitable for modern use or sub-letting, suffering from inadequate wiring, poor telecommunications, bad layout and no car parking. In the post-Communist era, new buildings have appeared in all three cities.

Mr Bennett argues that while supply remains low, the demand for modern office space is growing fast. This is due to three main factors: the growth and maturing of multi-national companies; entry into the market of local companies, especially in IT, telecoms and finance; and entry into the market of local official institutions such as regulatory bodies.

Michael Hodges, the regional partner for Jones Lang Wootton, said that transaction underlined the "integrity of Warsaw's maturing real estate market".

Last month Healey & Baker announced that the Danish com-

pany FORAS Polska and Thorild Kristensen Polska would shortly start construction of two shopping centres, anchored by hypermarkets, both of which have been pre-sold to the French retailer Carrefour.

DITZ Debenham Zadelhoff's report puts these new developments in perspective: of 2.5m sq m office space in Warsaw, about 90 per cent is substandard.

Mr Bennett acknowledges that the central European markets are still very much in their infancy, but are growing towards the Western European norm and rental patterns. "We believe that the current strong growth in demand will more than outweigh any growth in supply. There is a strong case for investors buying now while demand remains strong and yields relatively high."

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The Clerk

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6 Middle Street

London EC1A 7PH

Details of the property may be obtained by application in writing to the Surveyor to the Foundation:

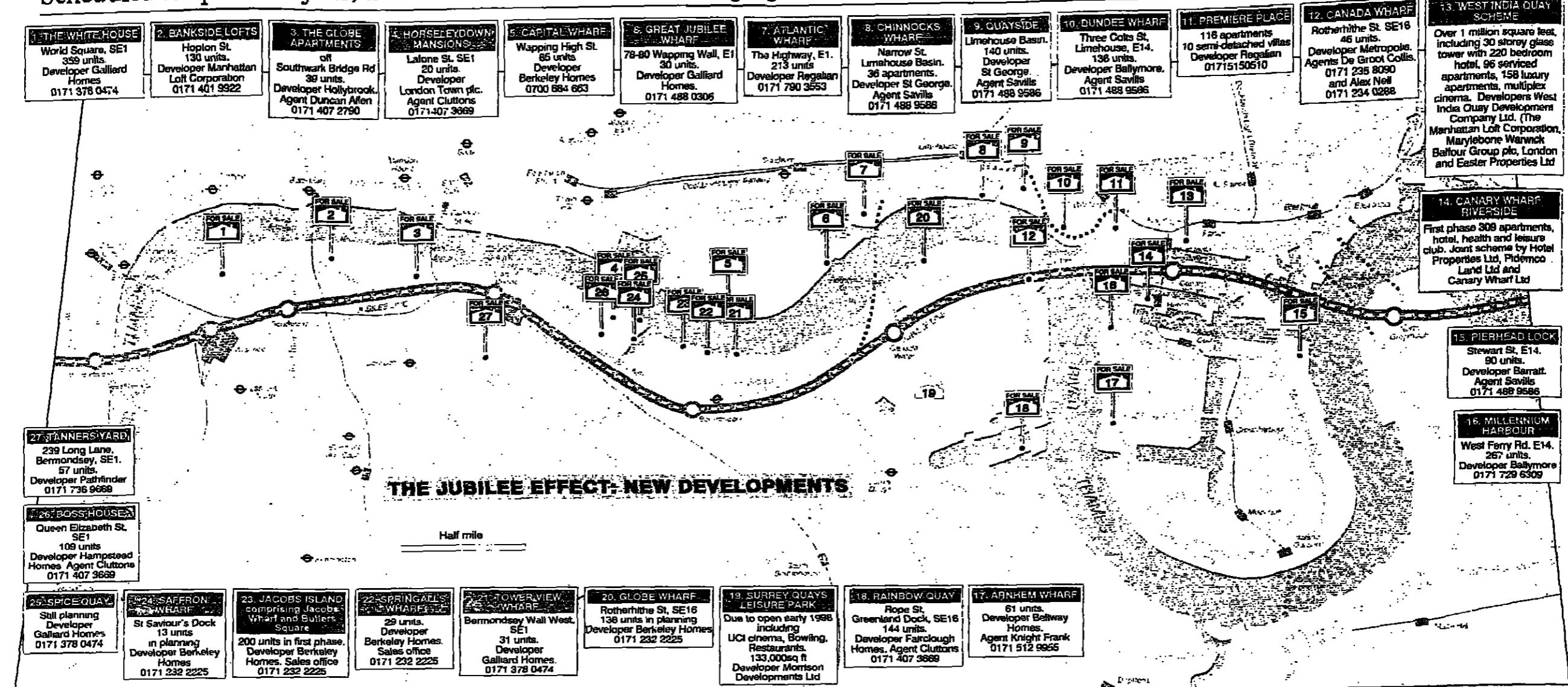
Mr W Killick BSc FRICS

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Scheduled to open next year, the Jubilee line extension is changing the face of the south bank and east London. Amanda Loose reports.



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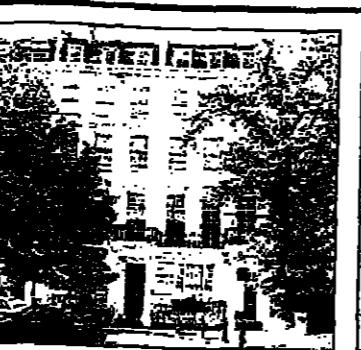
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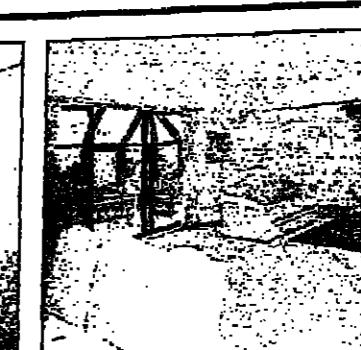
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MARKET MONDAY

Diana Wildman finds two glorious estates deep in the heart of romantic, rural Italy, with the charm of Florence and Siena nearby



Tuscany treasures: Cogno, a spacious wine and olive-oil producing estate, for sale at £1.45 million, at Castellina, and Villa Castagnoli, below, an imposing mansion set in 80 acres near Panzano. Asking price £2 million

Grand Tuscan estates are proving popular again with the rich, international, leisure-home buyer. City bonuses, a weak lira — about 2,700 to the pound — and increasingly sophisticated communication systems have changed the profile of buyers seeking seclusion in the splendour of the countryside between Florence and Siena.

It is the culture found in these two cities which further encourages buyers keen to spend several months of the year in rural tranquillity but who also enjoy the architectural and art treasures of the medieval towns.

Bill Thomson of Chianti Estates, Knight Frank's associated company in Italy, says: "The socio-economic profile is increasing all the time. Because of universal use of the modern, Internet and mobile phone/fax systems, a rural estate can now be the base for a global business. There are international airports at Florence and Pisa, direct air links between Siena and Milan and motorway links are good."

Knight Frank is selling two contrasting properties, both reminiscent of the one used as the focal point in Bertolucci's film, *Stealing Beauty*, which rightly received more acclaim for its photography of the sweeping Tuscan hills than for its storyline.

Cogno is a spacious wine and olive-oil producing estate set in 70 lush acres ten miles north of Siena

Tuscan seclusion: a chance of stealing beauty

FOREIGN PROPERTIES

outbuildings have been converted for holiday hire.

The interior of the house is an example of classic rural living with a farmhouse kitchen, nine bedrooms and a formal first-floor drawing room with an adjacent small music room. There are several receptions, including a dining room with mosaic floor. The layout offers flexibility for a new owner to create a further ground-floor living room.

As with most such properties in Tuscany, outside living is the norm for the spring and summer months and Cogno has large, partially covered terracing which could easily be extended. There is a large

swimming pool and new trees are being cultivated to extend the olive production.

In contrast, Knight Frank quotes £2 million for Villa Castagnoli, an imposing mansion set in 80 acres near the walled village of Panzano. The estate, which has at its heart a medieval watchtower, is 23 miles from both Siena and Florence. The tower was built by an important Florentine family to form part of the defence of the city against its fight with Siena in the 14th century for supremacy in the region.

Castagnoli gradually evolved as a formal villa between the 15th and 18th centuries and today is an imposing property with six spacious bedroom suites, seven receptions, and staff and guest cottages.

The tower consists of a grand summer drawing room complete

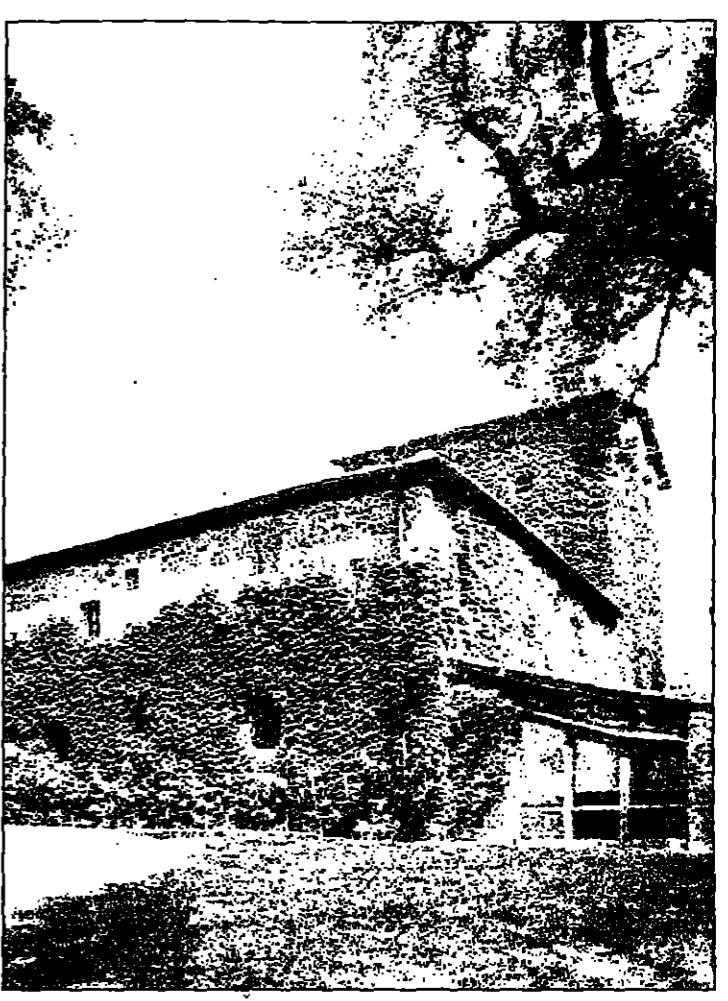
with two levels of minstrel galleries, now used as a library. There are family and winter sitting rooms and a 45ft long formal basement drawing room with large, stone fireplace.

The original bread oven is still in the cavernous kitchen and there are old brick floors and brick vaulted ceilings throughout the property. The emphasis is on formal splendour. It is simply a grand country home ideal for entertaining. The main outdoor terrace has sweeping views over the green terracotta-lined swimming pool and formal gardens towards the rolling hills and tiny villages.

The local planning authorities have jealously protected the environment, and the Tuscan countryside (as well as Florence and Siena) has no high-rise buildings or conspicuously ugly blocks of flats to spoil the skyline.

Knight Frank's Patrick Dring says: "There is a huge demand for properties like these. I envisage it being bought by a captain of industry, probably British, a government minister or a serious actor — someone who wishes to fly in half a dozen times a year and enjoy instant and utter seclusion. There is a helicopter pad at Villa Castagnoli and it is a 30-minute hop from Pisa.

Details: Knight Frank (0171 629 8171). Chianti Estates (0039 577 73120. Fax: 0039 577 731121).



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

PEOPLE & PROPERTY 11

HOUSE OF THE MONTH: BERTRAND RUSSELL'S SCHOOL

Telegraph House, built in the early 1900s by Frank, the 2nd Earl Russell, the brother of the philosopher and mathematician Bertrand Russell, has come on to the market through Savills' Salisbury office, writes Katherine Bergen.

The Grade II listed house, situated in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty, includes 300 acres on the South Downs and was built on the site of a former semaphore keeper's cottage. Between 1822 and 1845 there was a line of 15 semaphore stations connecting the Admiralty in London with Portsmouth Harbour. Telegraph House was number 14 in line and from it you can see south as far as the Solent and the Isle of Wight.

In 1927 Bertrand Russell rented the house from his brother and, with his wife Dora, ran it as a progressive school that became notorious locally for the liberated behaviour of the both staff and pupils, who used to cavort in the nude through the grounds during the summer months.

There are four reception rooms, including a fitted library and an oak-panelled dining room, five bedrooms and four bathrooms in the main house and a further three bedrooms and a bathroom in the west wing.

This wing also has a third-floor tower room with windows on four



Telegraph House and, right, Bertrand Russell in the garden with some of the school children

sides which was particularly liked by Bertrand Russell and became his study. In 1950 he won the Nobel prize for literature.

An annex of the house provides further accommodation and has been separately let. Two bungalows in the grounds, Yew Tree Cottage and Corner Cottage, are currently let on six-month assured tenancies.

The formal gardens, which

cover just over an acre, have been open to the public for 23 years under the National Gardens scheme and have been awarded a star in the *Good Gardens Guide*.

The owners have specialised in growing chalk-loving plants, both herbaceous and shrubs. Also in the grounds are an outdoor swimming pool and a studio built by Russell as a classroom.

Another feature of the property.

along with 110 acres of agricultural land, is 150 acres of natural woodlands including examples of yew, whitebeam and oak, designated as a site of special scientific interest.

The woodlands have remained unchanged throughout this century and are full of wildlife, including deer, badgers and foxes. Savills expect offers in excess of £1.6 million.



What can you buy for £100,000?

After years of stagnation, the housing market is finally on the move again. Moira O'Neill talks to estate agents to see what you can get for your money

Fuelled by a booming financial services market, the cost of a family house in London has passed the £100,000 limit — yet the national average for a house is still £58,196, according to Nationwide's monthly house price index.

Demand for homes is pushing up prices so fast that Winkworth's latest London property price guide — headlined "Summer 1997" — is already out of date. It says that four-bedroom houses in Tooting, on the southern fringe of London, can be bought for £95,000 — but Winkworth's Tooting office says you would now have to pay at least £100,000.

In down-market Kennington the guide prices a three-bedroom house from £75,000. Not so, says the Kennington office: the cheapest three-bedroom house on their list costs £120,000, though they do have a two-bedroom former council house for £99,500.

Anyone with £100,000 to spare could perhaps get a studio flat in South Kensington, a one-bedroom flat in Docklands or Fulham or a two-bedroom flat in London's fringe areas if they were lucky and fast on the draw. Family house in good order? Forget it.

Regional trends, however, reveal the split in the housing market. Price gains outside London and the South East are modest. Nationwide's Housing Finance Review says that prices in Scotland have actually fallen in the last twelve months, though it adds "there is no question of any return to the 1980s peak, when prices in the South were double those in the North".

I asked local estate agents around Britain what £100,000 would buy me.

In Edinburgh, Speirs Gurney said that £100,000 would purchase a three-bedroom modern detached house or a traditional terraced house in the suburbs. However, on the city outskirts, I could buy a large, traditional detached house. Further north, in the centre of Aberdeen, the same money could purchase only a two-bedroom flat

in a modern block, though on the outskirts there are rural three-bedroom cottages to be bought for the same price, according to agents Grant Smith. If I were to turn westwards to spend my £100,000 in Fort William, McIntrye & Co said that I could buy a five-bedroom modern detached house, on an acre of land.

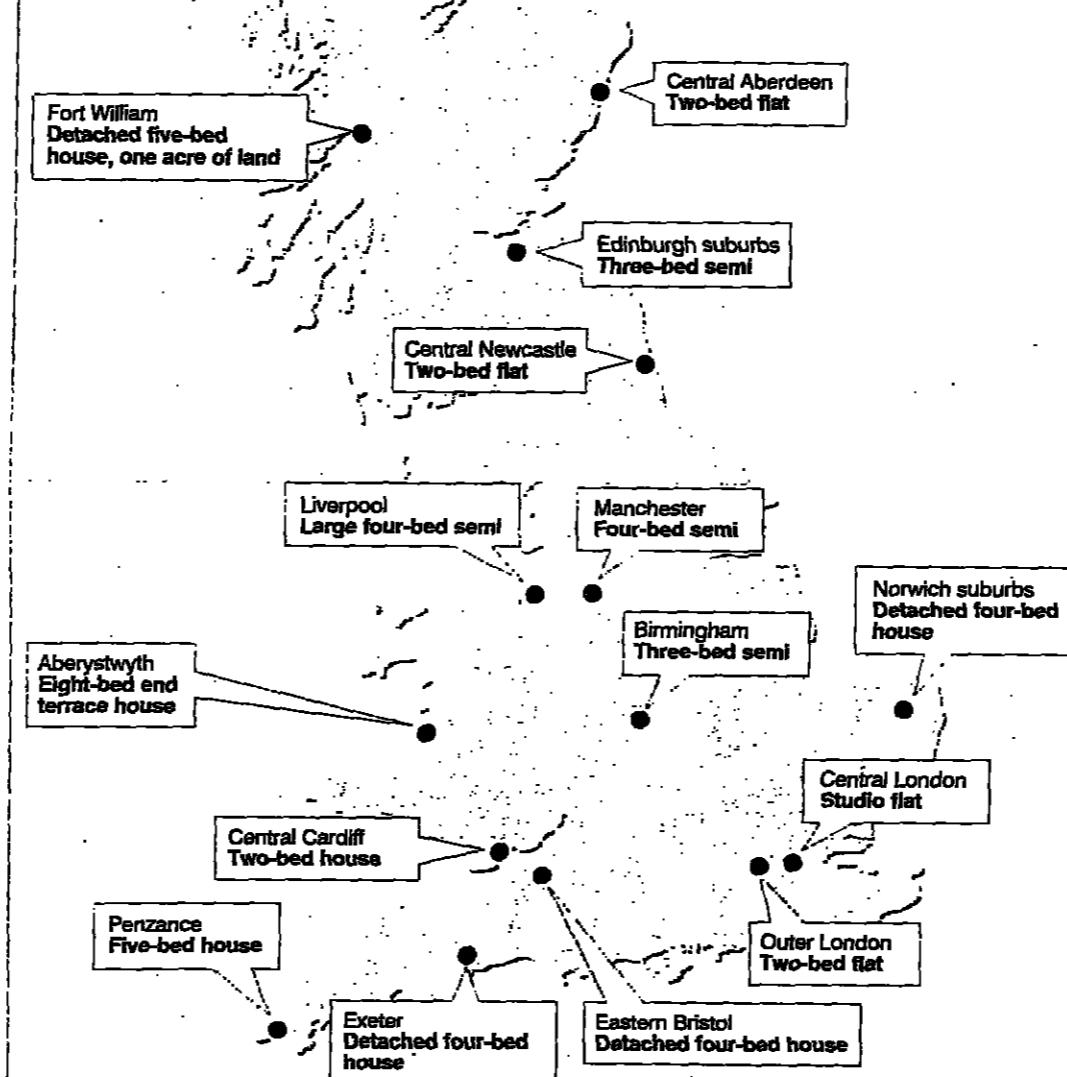
An owner of a London flat could sell his property and live in style in the midlands. In Birmingham, £100,000 would buy a three-bedroom traditional semi-detached house or an attractive top-floor three-bedroom mansion house apartment, says Dixons in Harborne. In Manchester, the same amount would obtain an Edwardian four-bedroom semi or a modern detached four-bedroom house, says Alan Ainsworth.

A short trip north-east to Liverpool would get you more, perhaps a large four-bedroom Victorian semi or a three-bedroom large detached house in the city centre. Indeed, my £100,000 could secure me a four-bedroom family semi-detached house with a swimming pool, according to Roberts, Edwards and Worrall.

No, however, in Newcastle city centre, where £100,000 would buy not a house but a two-bedroom luxury flat with ensuite bedrooms, a balcony and a garage. In the neighbouring areas, says Keith Partington, you would get a three-bedroom terraced house, and three miles from the city centre you could buy a three-bedroom detached...

There are some good properties to be had in Norwich for £100,000, says Arnolds. In the city centre you could buy a Victorian terraced house, perhaps a semi or a luxury apartment. In the suburbs, detached four-bedroom estate properties can be bought for the same price and in the villages ten miles north, you could buy an attractive cottage on an acre of land.

In central Cardiff, according to Mansell's, £100,000 would only buy a luxury two-bedroom flat, though you would not need to move far out to buy a house. In most of the rest of Wales, prices are still low



and in the middle of Aberystwyth a Victorian property at the end of a terrace overlooking a marina has eight bedrooms. Lloyd, Herbert and Jones are asking only £90,000. The western side of Bristol is expensive and you could not buy a decent house for £100,000. However, in the east of the town, £100,000 would buy a modern four-bedroom detached property, says AJ Soper.

In Exeter you could buy a four-bedroom detached house on a modern estate and if you were to go west of the River Exe you would find even better properties for £100,000, says Wilkinson Grant.

But by far the best properties available for £100,000 are to be found at the extremes of the United Kingdom. Londoners tempted to migrate might consider Penzance, where for £100,000 you could have your choice of thatched cottages with large gardens and sea views. An architect-designed detached four-bedroom house with a sea view would also be within your price range, according to Whitlocks.

At the northern end of Britain, near John O'Groats, Young Robertson and Co have a detached house in an acre of land with views to the Orkney Islands for £95,000.

Should a Londoner really want to downshift, however, the same agents have a 19th-century stone-built three-storey house in Wick, Scotland, which the present owners are asking for £23,000.

● Winkworth (Tooting), 0181 7975221; Speirs Gurney, 0131 228 1055; Grant Smith, 01234 621620; McIntrye & Co, 01977 702321; Dixons, 021 229 2388; Alan Ainsworth, 0161 442 1221; Roberts, Edwards and Worrall, 0151 733 7101; Keith Partington, 0191 232 4392; Arnolds, 01603 620551; Mansell's, 01222 521600; Lloyd, Herbert and Jones, 01970 612550; AJ Soper, 0170 610260; Wilkinson Grant, 01922 427500; Whitlocks, 01736 369226; Young Robertson & Co, 01847 393247

risk against the advantage of being able to budget exactly.

One way of having your cake and eating it is to opt for a capped-rate mortgage, says Mr Bunton. This way, your rate is guaranteed not to rise beyond a set level during a specified period but will fall if base rates fall. With the Stroud & Swindon Building Society's three-year capped rate, you pay a fixed rate of 5.99 per cent for six months

then a capped rate of 7.49 per cent for the next 30 months. On a repayment loan with MIRAS this will cost £628.81 a month, rising to not more than £718.85 over the rest of the term. You can pay off up to 25 per cent of your loan without penalty during the term of the loan.

Both lenders say they should have enough funds to lend out at these rates for at least another two weeks. But the latest rate rise has made existing fixed and capped rates an even better deal than they were before, so there is no guarantee.

GETTING A LOAN

Sara McConnell says there are still good mortgage deals to be had, but borrowers should hurry if they want the best rates

How much will it cost to borrow £100,000? This used to be an easy one. Lenders offered a standard variable mortgage rate and that was that. Now borrowers are likely to need a lie-down after a lender has run through a long list of fixed rates, discounts, capped rates and cashbacks.

But if there is one near certainty this year, it is that the cost of loans will continue to rise as the newly independent Bank of England tries to head off a feared bout of inflation. Two rate rises in two months since Labour came to power have already pushed the big lenders' standard variable rate up to 7.95 per cent.

Borrowing £100,000 at 7.95 per cent on a repayment mortgage will cost you £747.51 a month. Interest-only loans appear cheaper, at £632.69 a month, but you will be expected to contribute to an insurance policy or investment on top of this to build up enough capital to repay the loan.

Tax relief on mortgage interest (MIRAS) may also be abolished in the summer Budget. This would push the monthly bill for a repayment loan up to £777.33 and for an interest-only loan to £662.50.

None are the days when lenders were so desperate to pull in borrowers that they offered better rates to those borrowing more. Abbey National is now almost alone among big lenders in doing so. After the latest interest-rate rise, Abbey's rate for borrowing £100,000 is 7.85 per cent, where a repayment loan would cost £740.87 a month and an interest-only loan £624.73. Both figures include MIRAS.

But many borrowers are opting to fix their rates to insulate themselves from further possible rises. The cost of fixed rates is also rising as lenders have to pay more to buy funds in the wholesale money markets, so move fast if you want to fix. The Halifax, the largest lender, which has just become a bank, predicts that base rates could

Quest to be on top of the pile started at the ground floor

A craftswoman confesses the lighter side of her career to Eve-Ann Prentice

THE CARPET-FITTER'S TALE

I started as a carpet-fitter purely by accident. I used to be at school with Ian James, who runs the firm I now work for in Kidlington near Oxford. When I left school I fitted in working for my Dad his garage, paint-spraying and welding and, for some strange reason, I started to help Ian.

I stayed for 12 months and watched and took it all in. When I was at the garage, I learnt about panel beating by watching and learning.

Then I travelled to New Zealand, assuming I would get work there as a barmaid or waitress, but I saw an advertisement for a carpet-fitter and was taken on for two days. I stayed for six months. When I came back to England I eventually worked for Ian again and I have been with him now at Crescent Carpets for three years. Last year I entered the carpet-fitter of the year award organised by the National Institute of Floor-Layers and Carpet-Fitters. This year I got

to the national semi-finals in March.

It is quite physically demanding work: the underlay is heavy and the longer you do it the harder it gets. I am 5ft 11in tall, but I don't think I could manage on my own, moving furniture and the like.

When you first start you also forget about things on the walls, such as pictures and cabinets.

I know I am not the only woman carpet-fitter in Britain, but as yet I have never met another. When I first started I was quite clumsy and I remember once, all we had to do was pull the carpet away from the wall and replace the gripper. There was a half-moon table on the other side of the room full of crystal glasses. I tugged the carpet and over went the table, taking the glasses with them. There was another time when my head hit a cabinet full of crystal. All the crystal shattered.

Then there was the time we were asked to carpet a whole house in burgundy except for one room which was to be blue. We made a mistake and did nearly all the house in blue and one room in burgundy. Luckily, the owner liked it like that.

Once we were working in Trafalgar Square in a big block of posh, sound-proof offices. I managed to get myself locked in a room at 2am because the door had no handle on it and once the door was closed, no one could hear me shouting. When someone eventually came to look for me and realised what had happened, they had to take the window out to free me.

I work about ten hours a day and it is quite a lonely job. We don't get many complaints, though, and I get satisfaction from doing a good job, or I wouldn't do it. I would say to anyone contemplating buying a carpet that they shouldn't be afraid of getting more than one quote; they shouldn't be frightened of asking questions. We have some very difficult customers, but people are more willing to take advice now than they used to be. It depends what you want to spend. We used to get people insisting on foam-backed carpet to save on the underlay, but it doesn't last five minutes. Nowadays people will listen to you. If I had my own place I would want nice carpets and I would probably replace the kitchen and bathroom carpets quite often because they get such a lot of wear.

I have worked with men all my life, always surrounded by men and any comments I get about being a woman carpet-fitter go over my head. Being a woman makes you want to prove yourself. I am 27 and my boyfriend yet, but I don't own our own house yet, but I have replaced the carpets wherever I have lived.



Carpet layer Rachel Bolton, a former panel-beater, and a carpet-fitter of the year semi-finalist



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Wiltshire: Westbury 01256 814314
Five detached family homes set in a delightful village location in the heart of the Mendip Valley.

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Swan Court, Corn Street. A superb development of charming stone built 3 bedroom town houses close to the centre of this lovely market town and designed to compliment the Conservation Area. Final phase now released.

Chart Sutton: 01999 561499
£25,500 to £62,500 01999 561499
Three 5 bedroom detached homes set in this charming village to the south of Maidstone. Each home benefits from a large plot size and a country aspect to the rear.

Kent: 01999 561499
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St Paul's Green. 5 bedroom houses in a tranquil village setting, just outside Swanley. Each has 3 reception rooms and double garages, and some have stunning double-height entrance halls. *Only few remaining.*

Old Wives Lane: 01999 561499
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Cobbs Hill Place. Located in a truly superb village setting are these 3 and 4 bedroom homes, midway between Ashford and Canterbury. 60% sold/reserved.

London: 01223 600000 07000 674663
£225,000 to £375,000 01223 600000
Capital Wharf. Eighty-five 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and penthouses, most of which have sunny south-facing balconies overlooking the Thames, with views of Tower Bridge.

London: 01223 600000 07000 674663
Brent Street. A unique development of twenty-eight elegantly designed 2/3 bedroom apartments and penthouses, with en-suite facilities and lift, some with balconies and terraces.

London: 01223 600000 07000 674663
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The Gallery. Situated 200 yards from St Paul's Cathedral, a development of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and a superb 3 bedroom penthouse. Within walking distance of Thames Link Station and Underground. *Only few remaining.*

Surrey: 01999 561499
£125,500 to £295,000 01999 561499
The Marstons, Egglee Road. Three detached 5 bedroom family homes in a quiet location close to the village centre. Each property contains 3/4 reception rooms, designer kitchen, en-suite facilities and double garage.

Surry: 01999 561499
£125,500 to £295,000 01999 561499
Ovinge Place. A truly superb development of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom lodges and mews cottages, together with detached 4 bedroom houses, designed with 'old world' charm and situated amongst traditional style flint-faced properties, in this peaceful village setting close to Chichester. Show home now open.

Essex: 01256 814314
£215,000 to £250,000 01403 211230
Norlington Court. Situated in this popular East Sussex village close to Lewes, a stunning development of six traditionally styled 4 and 5 bedroom detached family homes. Located close to the village green and open farmland.

Surry: 01999 561499
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Ashley Mews, The Fairfield. Close to the mainline railway station for services to Waterloo, an excellent development of nine 2 and 3 storey town houses set in a terrace of four and a terrace of five properties fronting The Fairfield.

Hampshire: 01992 576500
£725,000 01992 576500
Old Mill Place. Set aside the Surrey hills, two bungalows, each comprising 3 bedrooms, en-suite facilities, separate drawing room/dining room and garage.

Essex: 01628 776070
£250,000 to £295,000 01628 776070
River Road Villas, Uxbridge Road. Three classically styled 3 bedroom town houses, with garages, each with access to a private rear garden. Suburban railway station (Waterloo in approximately 20 minutes) is within walking distance.



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